

## Table of Contents

1. Overview .....	3
1.1. Purpose of the Community Involvement Plan .....	3
1.2. Scope of the Community Involvement Plan .....	4
1.3. Agency Partnerships and Legal Authorities.....	5
2. Project Background.....	7
2.1. History of Contamination .....	7
2.2. Description of Project Area .....	9
2.3. Project Activities .....	11
2.4. The Cleanup Plan for the Lower 8.3 Miles.....	12
2.5. Next Steps .....	14
2.6. Remedial Design (RD) and Remedial Action (RA).....	14
2.7. Long-term Monitoring and Maintenance .....	15
2.8. Local Workforce Participation during Construction.....	16
3. Community Feedback.....	17
3.1. Highlights of Community Involvement to Date.....	17
3.2. Timeline of Major Community Involvement Activities.....	18
3.3. Overview of 2016 Community Interview Process .....	19
3.4. Key Community Concerns .....	19
4. Community Profile .....	22
4.1. Land Use Characteristics and Infrastructure .....	22
4.1.1. Redevelopment .....	22
4.1.2. Transportation Infrastructure .....	23
4.1.3. Drinking Water, Sewers and Power .....	23
4.1.4. Flood Control .....	23
4.1.5. Recreation.....	24
4.2. Population and Demographics.....	24
4.2.1. Population.....	24
4.2.2. Age .....	25
4.2.3. Household Income.....	25
4.2.4. Race and Ethnicity .....	25
4.2.5. Immigrant and Minority Population and Linguistic Trends.....	26

4.2.6.	Environmental Justice.....	27
4.2.7.	Education.....	28
5.	Community Involvement Action Plan.....	29
5.1.	Communication Goals.....	29
5.2.	Community Involvement Tools and Outreach.....	30
5.2.1.	Community Advisory Group (CAG) .....	31
5.2.2.	Community Events.....	31
5.2.3.	Coordination with Local Government and Other Agencies .....	32
5.2.4.	Door-to-Door Notifications.....	32
5.2.5.	Email .....	32
5.2.6.	Fact Sheets .....	32
5.2.7.	Field Notifications.....	33
5.2.8.	Information Repositories.....	33
5.2.9.	Maps and Visual Aids.....	33
5.2.10.	Media Notification/Media Events.....	34
5.2.11.	Newsletters.....	34
5.2.12.	Public Comment Period.....	34
5.2.13.	Public Input.....	34
5.2.14.	Public Meetings and Public Information Sessions .....	35
5.2.15.	Public Notices.....	35
5.2.16.	Public Service Announcements (PSAs).....	35
5.2.17.	Project Site Visits/Tours .....	36
5.2.18.	Project Roadmap .....	36
5.2.19.	Project Websites .....	36
5.2.20.	School/Educational Outreach.....	37
5.2.21.	Superfund Jobs Training Initiative (Super JTI) .....	37
5.2.22.	Surveys/Focus Groups .....	37
5.2.23.	Technical Assistance Grant (TAG).....	38
5.2.24.	Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program.....	38
5.2.25.	Toll-free Hotline.....	39
5.3.	Evaluation of Outreach.....	39

## List of Tables

Table 1	Agency Missions
Table 2	Relevant Federal Legal Authorities
Table 3	Contaminants of Concern
Table 4	Diamond Alkali Superfund Site Project Activities
Table 5	Steps in the Superfund Process
Table 6	Major Community Involvement Activities
Table 7	Summary Statistics for the Lower 8.3 Miles of the Passaic River
Table 8	Keys Tools

## List of Figures

Figure 1	The Lower 8.3 Mile Cleanup Area
Figure 2	Examples of Caps
Figure 3	Race in the Eight Municipalities

## Appendices

Appendix 1	Abbreviations and Acronyms
Appendix 2	Glossary
Appendix 3	Partner Agency Contacts
Appendix 4	CAG Contacts (placeholder)
Appendix 5	Elected Officials: Federal
Appendix 6	Elected Officials: State
Appendix 7	Elected Officials: Local
Appendix 8	Cooperating Parties
Appendix 9	Regional Authorities Contacts
Appendix 10	Stakeholder Groups
Appendix 11	Potential Meeting Locations
Appendix 12	Information Repositories
Appendix 13	Media List
Appendix 14	Seasonal Events and Activities
Appendix 15	Fish and Shellfish Advisories
Appendix 16	Community Interview Questions (2005, 2016) and Interview Summary (2014)
Appendix 17	Example Fact Sheets
Appendix 18	Legal Authorities
Appendix 19	Works Consulted



## Introduction

In March 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a cleanup plan for the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River. This project is part of a comprehensive strategy to clean up the 17-mile stretch of the Lower Passaic River, from Dundee Dam to Newark Bay. The Lower Passaic River and Newark Bay are part of the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site. Under Superfund law and EPA policy and practice, people whose lives are impacted by hazardous waste sites have a voice in the cleanup process. The agency is committed to involving the public and providing opportunities for participation so that people have a say in what happens in their communities.

This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is the latest effort in the ongoing public outreach about the Passaic River cleanup. The first CIP for the 17-mile Lower Passaic Restoration Project and Newark Bay Study was released in 2006 and addressed outreach for the entire project area. As the project enters the design and construction phase for the lower 8.3-mile cleanup, the agency recognizes the need for a more targeted CIP. Although the plan's recommendations may apply for future cleanup of other portions of the river and Newark Bay, this document is focused on outreach for the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River, which extends from Newark Bay to the border between the City of Newark and Belleville Township.

As the EPA works on the details of the design and implementation of the cleanup, the agency is committed to involving the public and keeping the community informed about cleanup activities and how these activities may impact them. In keeping with that commitment, this CIP has been developed to facilitate two-way dialogue between the communities affected by the Passaic River cleanup and the EPA to encourage community involvement in site activities.

Specifically, the CIP provides an overview of the outreach tools and techniques that the EPA uses to share information and to inform and involve the public during the cleanup process. It is based on several rounds of community interviews with residents, elected officials, agency representatives and other stakeholders in the Lower Passaic River communities, combined with feedback received during the multi-year site investigation process and during the public comment period on the EPA's proposed cleanup plan.

The CIP serves as a roadmap for the EPA in providing opportunities for public information and input during the cleanup of the Passaic River. The CIP is an evolving document and will be updated or revised as needed to ensure that opportunities for public participation continue throughout the cleanup process.

This CIP contains the following sections:

1. Overview
2. Project Background
3. Community Feedback
4. Community Profile
5. Community Involvement Action Plan

Sections may be read independently of each other. Acronyms are spelled out upon first reference, and a full list is provided in Appendix 1. The Appendices are designed to serve as a

resource guide for both the EPA and the community. Specific sections include EPA and other agency contacts, local government contacts, where to find additional documents, a glossary of terms, and other relevant project background information. A Works Consulted is listed in Appendix 19, as individual citations are not included in this CIP. Please note that bolded terms appear in Appendix 2 - Glossary. This "Draft for Public Comment" does not contain a full list of appendices and hyperlinks are not active in this version of the document.

## 1. Overview

The following section describes the purpose and scope of the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) as well as applicable legal authorities.

### 1.1. Purpose of the Community Involvement Plan

This CIP is the foundation for the EPA's Superfund Community Involvement Program for the Lower Passaic River, from Dundee Dam to Newark Bay. Based upon the 2006 CIP, the plan has been updated and revised to focus on the **cleanup** of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River, from Newark Bay to the Newark/Belleville border. It describes a range of **community involvement and outreach** tools and activities that EPA uses to communicate with the community (described in Section 5.1). Not all of the tools and activities will necessarily be implemented. Rather, the EPA will periodically review, select, and prioritize which tools and activities to implement, based on input from **stakeholders** and in consideration of a number of project management and **community** factors.

The plan's purpose is to outline actions and activities that the EPA may undertake to encourage meaningful public engagement during cleanup and **restoration** activities in the Lower Passaic River. It is also designed to assist the communities and other stakeholders throughout the project area to become more informed and involved in the project, especially with regard to the design and construction phase of the lower 8.3 miles of the river.

The EPA collaborated with a broad cross-section of stakeholders to gather their input on designing a successful community involvement and outreach program. This plan is based on the following information:

#### Community Involvement Goals

- Provide the public with accurate, timely and understandable information;
- Facilitate opportunities for the public to give informed and meaningful input;
- Respect and give full consideration to community input and provide feedback to the public on how their concerns are addressed.

**Environmental Justice:** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, education or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Implies that no population of people should be forced to shoulder a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts of pollution or environmental hazard due to a lack of political or economic strength levels.

- Community interviews (2005, 2014, and 2016) with local residents, officials, representatives from environmental and community organizations and other interested parties. See Appendix 16.
- Historical information and records pertaining to community concerns (i.e., land use, redevelopment and **environmental justice**).

- The previous CIP for the Lower Passaic River/Newark Bay (2006) and community involvement activities related to the Diamond Alkali site, which was added to the **National Priorities List (NPL)** in 1984
- Feedback received during the 2014 **public comment period** on the proposed cleanup for the lower 8.3 miles of the river and public meetings held during that time.
- The EPA's ongoing dialogue and communication with the Passaic River **Community Advisory Group (CAG)**.

**Community Advisory Group (CAG):** A committee, task force or board made up of residents affected by a Superfund or other hazardous waste site. A CAG provides a way for representatives of diverse community interests to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the site and the site cleanup process. CAGs are a community initiative and responsibility. They function independently of the EPA and the other Partner Agencies.

## 1.2. Scope of the Community Involvement Plan

As discussed further in Section 2, the EPA recognizes the unique nature of this project, which affects a number of large communities. Given the Passaic River's proximity to large, diverse population centers and the geographical extent of **sediment contamination**, a plan with broad-based public involvement goals was developed. The tools and activities in this CIP are not specifically targeted toward other state and federal cleanup and restoration efforts planned or underway within the project study area; however, this CIP is consistent and compatible with related efforts and initiatives, such as:

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) federal mission areas, including
  - Restoration (i.e., the overall **Hudson-Raritan Estuary [HRE] Ecosystem Study**),
  - Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)-authorized and **Clean Water Act (CWA)**-regulated navigation program activities
  - Dredged material management
  - The NY/NJ **Harbor Estuary Program (HEP)**
- State agency-run site cleanups on the industrial waterfront and other relevant locations
- Other EPA Superfund work in the study area

All watershed-based improvement activities are best understood as interrelated, with due consideration given to other efforts in the study area.

This plan offers options for community involvement and outreach, rather than a prescriptive approach. The suggested outreach activities and tools in the following pages are flexible in nature and were designed to appeal to multiple audiences. The EPA recognizes that not all outreach activities and tools are suited for all groups.

Where possible, the CIP attempts to lay out a sequence of project activities. The EPA does not currently have the information necessary to identify the precise timing of all activities and opportunities for community involvement and outreach. Therefore, this CIP will remain a living document that will be reviewed and updated as needed. Specific time-line information on the major project documents, decisions and activities will be provided to the public through fact sheets, project website updates and email.



### 1.3. Agency Partnerships and Legal Authorities

In 2004, the EPA formed a partnership with the Corps, the State of New Jersey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conduct a

**Partner Agencies:** The Corps, the State of New Jersey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

joint study that would bring each agency's authorities to bear on the complex environmental problems of the Lower Passaic River. These agencies, referred to as "**the Partner Agencies**" continue to collaborate on a number of activities. See Table 1 for an overview of their individual missions. For further discussion, refer to Appendix 18 – Legal Authorities.

**Table 1: Agency Missions**

AGENCY	MISSION
<u>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</u>	To protect human health and the environment - air, water and land. EPA, state, local and tribal agencies work together to ensure compliance with environmental laws passed by Congress, state legislatures and tribal governments. EPA oversees numerous programs, including Superfund.
<u>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)</u>	To provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our Nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters. Corps environmental cleanup programs focus on reducing risk and protecting human health and the environment in a timely and cost-effective manner.
<u>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)</u>	To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources. Dedicated to the understanding and stewardship of the environment.
<u>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)</u>	To conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.
<u>New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)</u>	To protect the air, waters, land and natural and historic resources of the State of New Jersey to ensure continued public benefit. The Department's mission is advanced through effective and balanced implementation and enforcement of environmental laws to protect these resources and the health and safety of New Jersey's residents.

The study, **remediation** and restoration activities of the Lower Passaic River are being conducted under a number of federal laws and regulations, most notably the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980** (CERCLA, commonly known as Superfund) and the **Water Resource Development Act of 1990** (WRDA), Section 312. At a minimum, federal agencies are required to conduct public meetings to facilitate and encourage public participation with regard to decisions that affect the quality of the human environment and cleanup. Please see Table 2 below for a brief summary of relevant federal legal authorities. More comprehensive descriptions are provided in Appendix 18.

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act:** Commonly known as Superfund, CERCLA is intended to protect human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Under the program, EPA either can pay for a site cleanup when parties responsible for the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to perform the work, or take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or repay the federal government for the cleanup cost.

**Table 2: Relevant Federal Legal Authorities**

LEGAL AUTHORITY	LEAD AGENCY	DESCRIPTION
<u>The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)</u> , as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), commonly called Superfund	EPA	CERCLA or Superfund provides federal funding to clean up hazardous waste sites as well as accidents, spills and other emergency releases of contaminants into the environment. Through CERCLA, the EPA is given authority to find the parties responsible for any release and assure their cooperation in the cleanup. The regulation follows the “polluter pays principle,” which states that the parties who caused the pollution should ultimately pay for the cleanup, not the general public.
<u>Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) and Restoration</u>	NOAA and USFWS	NRDA is the process by which government agencies acting as trustees assess injuries and related damages to natural resources associated with releases of hazardous substances. The ultimate objective is to restore natural resources that have been injured by hazardous substance contamination to the condition that would have existed if the hazardous substances were not released. Natural resources held in trust include fish, wildlife, and other living things, water, lands and protected areas.
<u>The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)</u>	The Corps	WRDA is a piece of legislation that provides authorization for water projects to be studied, planned and developed by the Corps.
<u>The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)</u>	All federal agencies	NEPA requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the environmental impacts of, and reasonable alternatives to, their proposed actions.
<u>Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations</u>	All federal agencies	This order directs federal agencies to address environmental and human health conditions in minority and low-income communities to avoid the disproportionate placement of any adverse effects from federal policies and actions on these populations.

## 2. Project Background

The Diamond Alkali Superfund Site is being cleaned up in phases. The site includes the former Diamond Alkali facility at 80-120 Lister Avenue in Newark; the 17-mile Lower Passaic River Study Area (including the lower 8.3 miles of the river); and the Newark Bay Study Area. The following section describes the history of the Lower Passaic River cleanup and the scientific issues it addresses.

**Lower Passaic River Study Area:** The 17-mile, tidal portion of the Passaic River, from the river's confluence with Newark Bay River Mile (RM) 0 to Dundee Dam (RM 17.4), and its watershed, including the Saddle River (RM 15.6), Third River (RM 11.3) and Second River (RM 8.1).

### 2.1. History of Contamination

The Passaic River was one of the major centers of the American industrial revolution starting two centuries ago. The Dundee Dam, constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, was originally conceived to provide water power to nearby businesses, supporting further industrialization along the banks of the river. Along with the Dundee Dam, another defining component of the development and urbanization of the Lower Passaic River was the construction of a navigable channel for commercial vessels. Between 1884 and 1915, **dredging** projects authorized by Congress and constructed by the Corps created a federally authorized navigation channel from the river's mouth at Newark Bay to Wallington. By the end of the nineteenth century, a multitude of industrial operations, such as manufactured gas plants, paper manufacturing and recycling facilities, petroleum refineries, shipping, tanneries, creosote wood preservers, metal recyclers and manufacturers of materials such as rubber, rope, textiles, paints and dyes, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, had located along the river's banks as cities such as Newark and Paterson grew. Industrial operations and municipalities used the river for wastewater disposal. To date, over 100 industrial facilities have been identified as potentially responsible for discharging contaminants into the river, including the contaminants of concern listed in Table 3.

During the study of the 17-mile Lower Passaic River, the EPA determined that the sediments of the lower 8.3 miles of the Lower Passaic River pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment due to the presence of a variety of contaminants, most of which stay in the environment for a long time and **bioaccumulate** in fish and crab. Table 3 describes eight contaminants that pose the greatest potential risks to human and environmental health in the lower 8.3 miles. Therefore, the EPA made a decision on a final cleanup plan for the sediments of the lower 8.3 miles of the river, while the 17-mile Lower Passaic River study is on-going.

**Bioaccumulation:** The process by which the chemical concentration in an aquatic organism achieves a level that exceeds that in the water, as a result of chemical uptake through all possible routes of exposure.



Table 3: Contaminants of Concern

SUBSTANCE	DESCRIPTION AND HEALTH EFFECTS
<u>Copper (Cu)</u>	Copper is a metal that enters the environment through releases from factories that make or use copper metal or compounds, leachate from landfills, combustion of fossil fuels, wood processing, fertilizer production and natural sources such as dust from soils, volcanoes and forest fires. Although copper is an essential dietary element at low levels for organisms, at higher levels it is highly toxic in aquatic environments and builds up in fish and shellfish. Copper can cause adverse effects in fish, invertebrates and amphibians. Copper also impacts growth, development and causes organ problems in birds and mammals.
<u>DDT</u>	DDT is a pesticide that was banned for use in the U.S. in 1972. It was used widely to control insects on crops and to control mosquitoes that spread malaria. DDT and its breakdown products build up in fish and shellfish and can cause adverse reproductive effects such as eggshell thinning in birds.
<u>Dieldrin</u>	Dieldrin is a pesticide that is no longer produced or used, but was once used extensively as an insecticide on crops or to control termites. It builds up in fish and shellfish. Dieldrin is highly toxic to aquatic crustaceans and fish. Dieldrin also causes liver damage, central nervous system effects suppression of the immune system in mammals, and eggshell thinning in birds.
<u>Dioxins and Furans</u>	These chemicals are by-products of chemical manufacturing, combustion (either in natural or industrial settings), metal processing and paper manufacturing. The dioxin compound known as 2,3,7,8-TCDD (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin; the most toxic form) and others were byproducts in the manufacture of herbicides, including "Agent Orange," a defoliant used in the Vietnam War. Dioxins build up in fish and shellfish. Toxic effects in humans include reproductive problems, problems in fetal development or early childhood, immune system damage and cancer. In fish and wildlife, effects include developmental and reproductive problems, hemorrhaging and immune system problems.
<u>Lead (Pb)</u>	Lead occurs naturally in the environment, but most of the higher levels found in the environment come from mining or factories that use lead compounds. Lead is also released into the air during burning of coal, oil or waste. Lead does not build up in fish and shellfish. Lead can cause muscular and neurological effects in fish. It is also toxic to invertebrates and can cause damage to the nervous system in birds and mammals.
<u>Mercury (Hg)</u>	Mercury is a metal that comes from a variety of sources, including metals processing, burning of coal, improper disposal of medical and other wastes, industrial effluent discharge and atmospheric deposition. Exposure to methylmercury (one type of mercury) most commonly occurs when people eat fish and shellfish that have high levels of methylmercury in their tissues. Mercury builds up in fish and shellfish. Toxic effects in humans include developmental and reproductive problems, and effects on the brain, nervous system and kidneys. In birds and mammals, mercury can cause effects in the central nervous system.
<u>PAHs</u>	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are chemicals that are a major component of petroleum products, and are formed during incomplete burning of coal, oil, gas, wood or other substances. PAH molecules are composed of two or more carbon and hydrogen rings. There are more than 100 different PAHs, which generally occur as complex mixtures. PAHs do not build up in fish and shellfish. PAHs are toxic to invertebrates and cause inhibited reproduction, delayed emergence, sediment avoidance and mortality. In fish, PAHs cause liver abnormalities and impairment of the immune system. PAHs can cause adverse effects on reproduction, development and immunity in birds and mammals.
<u>PCBs</u>	Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are manufactured chemicals that were used widely as coolants in transformer oils, and also in the manufacture of paints, caulking and building material until they were banned in the late 1970s. PCBs are mixtures of up to 209 compounds (or congeners). Some commercial PCB mixtures are known in the U.S. by their industrial trade name, Aroclor. PCBs build up in fish and shellfish. Children exposed to PCBs may develop learning and behavioral problems later in life. PCBs are known to adversely impact the immune system and may cause cancer in people who have been exposed to them over a long time. In birds and mammals, PCBs can cause various health effects, including: anemia; liver, stomach and thyroid gland injuries; and immune system, behavioral and reproductive problems.

## 2.2. Description of Project Area

The Lower Passaic River Study Area in northeastern New Jersey is the 17-mile, tidal portion of the Passaic River, from the river's confluence with Newark Bay at River Mile (RM) 0 to Dundee Dam at RM 17.4, and its watershed, including the Saddle River (RM 15.6), Third River (RM 11.3), and Second River (RM 8.1). This area is bounded at the upper end by the Dundee Dam, which physically isolates the Upper Passaic River from the tidal mixing of sediments that influences the lower portion of the river, and at the lower end by the confluence of the Lower Passaic River and Newark Bay.

This CIP focuses on the lower 8.3 miles of the Lower Passaic River, which extend from RM 0 to RM 8.3 near the border between the City of Newark and Belleville Township.

Figure 1: The Lower 8.3 Mile Cleanup Area





### 2.3. Project Activities

Table 4 lists project activities within the Lower Passaic River Study Area to provide context for the lower 8.3-mile cleanup.

Table 4: Diamond Alkali Superfund Site Project Activities

DATE	ACTIVITY
<b>1940s</b>	Manufacturing facility located at 80 Lister Avenue, Newark, NJ begins producing DDT and phenoxy herbicides.
<b>1951-69</b>	The Diamond Alkali Company (subsequently known as the Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company) owns and operates a pesticides manufacturing facility at 80 Lister Avenue. In 1960, an explosion destroys several plant processes; also in 1960, production limited to herbicides, including those used in the formulation of the defoliant "Agent Orange". Diamond Alkali Company ceases operations in 1969.
<b>1970-83</b>	80 Lister Avenue goes through a series of new ownerships and production processes.
<b>1976</b>	Congress authorizes the Corps to begin flood control study for the Passaic River Basin under the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA).
<b>1982</b>	NJDEP releases fishing advisories for reduced consumption of white perch and white catfish in the Passaic River. A portion of the river abutting 80 Lister Avenue is closed for commercial fishing of American eel and striped bass.
<b>1983</b>	NJDEP and the EPA collect samples; high levels of dioxin are detected in the Passaic River and at/around the 80 Lister Avenue property. Diamond Alkali site proposed by the EPA to the Superfund NPL. Fish advisories begin for the Passaic River and Newark Bay.
<b>1984</b>	NJDEP signs an agreement with the Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company to perform an investigation of 80 Lister Avenue. Site finalized on the Superfund NPL. Site investigation of 80 Lister Avenue begins. NJDEP signs an agreement with Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company to perform cleanup of select dioxin-contaminated properties and to perform an investigation of 120 Lister Avenue.
<b>1985-1986</b>	NJDEP releases investigation results and cleanup options for 80 and 120 Lister Avenue properties to the public.
<b>1987</b>	The EPA and NJDEP hold public meeting to discuss the Proposed Plan for cleanup. EPA selects an interim cleanup plan (Record of Decision [ROD]) for the 80 and 120 Lister Avenue portion of the Diamond Alkali Superfund site, requiring the containment of contaminated materials.
<b>1990</b>	The federal court approves an agreement among Occidental Chemical Corporation, as successor to Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company, and Chemical Land Holdings, Inc. (now known as Tierra Solutions, Inc.) and EPA and NJDEP to implement the 1987 interim cleanup plan. Corps receives Congressional WRDA authorization for the Joseph G. Minish Passaic Waterfront Park and Historic Area flood control study as an element of the Passaic River Flood Damage Reduction Project.
<b>1993</b>	The Passaic River portion of the Diamond Alkali Superfund site transferred from state lead under NJDEP to federal lead under the EPA.
<b>1994</b>	The EPA posts trilingual fishing advisory signs along the banks of the Passaic River near the former Diamond Alkali facility. The EPA and Occidental Chemical Corporation sign an agreement for the company to investigate the lower six-mile stretch of the Passaic River under EPA oversight. Demolition of buildings at 80 Lister Avenue is completed.
<b>1996-99</b>	The EPA, at the request of the local community, explores the potential for implementing an alternative to the interim cleanup plan selected in 1987. Alternative plan not found. EPA reviews and approves design of the 1987 interim cleanup plan.
<b>1999</b>	Congress authorizes the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Study and the Passaic River and Newark Bay are added as priority sites under WRDA "Section 312 - environmental dredging."

DATE	ACTIVITY
<b>2000</b>	Congress authorizes the Corps to conduct the Lower Passaic River Ecosystem Restoration Study under WRDA. The Corps initiates a Reconnaissance Study for the Lower Passaic River. Under EPA oversight, interim cleanup begins at the 80-120 Lister Avenue portion of Diamond Alkali Superfund site, which includes installation of a cap, slurry wall and flood wall around the properties and groundwater pumping and treatment.
<b>2001</b>	Interim cleanup plan is completed at the 80-120 Lister Avenue portion of Diamond Alkali Superfund site, under EPA oversight. The Corps completes the Reconnaissance Study for the Lower Passaic River.
<b>2002</b>	The Urban Rivers Restoration Initiative is launched; the EPA and Corps sign a National Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of coordinating the planning and execution of urban river cleanup and restoration.
<b>2003</b>	The six-mile study of Lower Passaic River is expanded to include the extent of contamination in the lower 17-miles of the Lower Passaic River. State and federal trustees sign a Memorandum of Agreement for NRDA and Restoration for the Diamond Alkali Superfund site and environs. The EPA, the Corps, and the State of New Jersey sign a Project Management Plan for the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project. A feasibility cost sharing agreement is signed by the Corps and the State of New Jersey. The Passaic River is selected as one of eight national pilot projects of the Urban Rivers Restoration Initiative.
<b>2004</b>	The EPA enters into an agreement with 31 potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to fund the Superfund portion of the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project (the 17-mile Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study). Additional PRPs added to the agreement in 2005 and 2007, resulting in a group of over 70 PRPs named the Cooperating Parties Group (CPG). The EPA and Occidental Chemical Corporation enter into an agreement for the company to conduct a multi-year study of contamination in the Newark Bay Study Area with EPA oversight.
<b>2007</b>	The EPA enters into another agreement with the CPG for them to take over performing the 17-mile Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study under EPA oversight.
<b>2008</b>	An agreement among the EPA, Occidental Chemical Corporation and Tierra is signed under which Occidental Chemical Corporation agrees to remove, in two phases, a total of 200,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the portion of the river directly in front of the former Diamond Alkali facility in downtown Newark (action known as the Tierra Removal).
<b>2012</b>	Phase I of the Tierra Removal is completed. The EPA and the CPG sign an agreement for a time-critical removal action at a mudflat in Lyndhurst to address the risks posed by high concentrations of dioxins, PCBs and other contaminants (action known as the River Mile 10.9 Removal).
<b>2014</b>	Dredging and capping for the River Mile 10.9 Removal are completed (except for where water supply line runs under river). The comprehensive site investigation reports and proposed cleanup plan for the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River are released to the public for comment.
<b>2016</b>	The EPA selects a final cleanup plan (in a Record of Decision) for the sediments of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River. The EPA signs an agreement with Occidental Chemical Corporation for the company to perform the remedial design of the lower 8.3-mile cleanup, with EPA oversight.

## 2.4. The Cleanup Plan for the Lower 8.3 Miles

In March 2016, the EPA selected a final cleanup plan for the sediments of the lower 8.3 miles of the river. The selected plan was based on the Proposed Plan and consideration of the comments received during the public comment period. The major components of the \$1.38 billion cleanup plan include the following:

**Capping:** A technology to address contaminated sediment which places clean sand or gravel over the contaminated sediment to isolate the contaminants from the surrounding environment.

- ❑ Capping the entire lower 8.3 miles of the river bank-to-bank to isolate the contamination in the sediment and prevent it from entering the food chain.
- ❑ Dredging 3.5 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment to prevent the cap from making flooding worse and to allow continued commercial use of the navigation channel in the 1.7 miles closest to Newark Bay.
- ❑ Barging or pumping dredged materials to a sediment processing facility in the vicinity of the Lower Passaic River/Newark Bay shoreline.
- ❑ Transporting dewatered materials from the sediment processing facility to permitted treatment facilities and landfills in the U.S. and Canada.
- ❑ Long-term **monitoring** and maintenance of the engineered cap. Long-term monitoring of fish, crab, river water and sediment quality. Enhanced outreach to improve awareness of fish and crab consumption advisories.

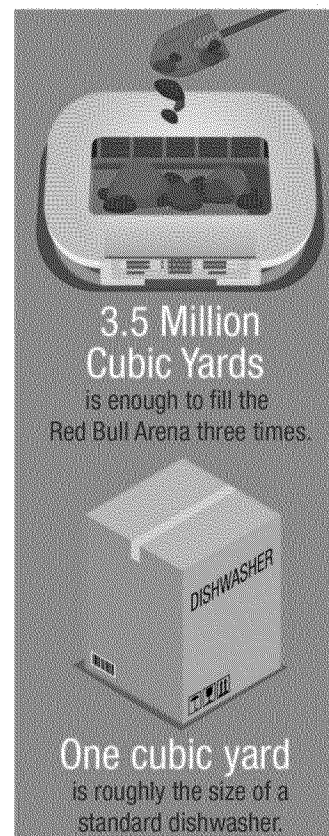
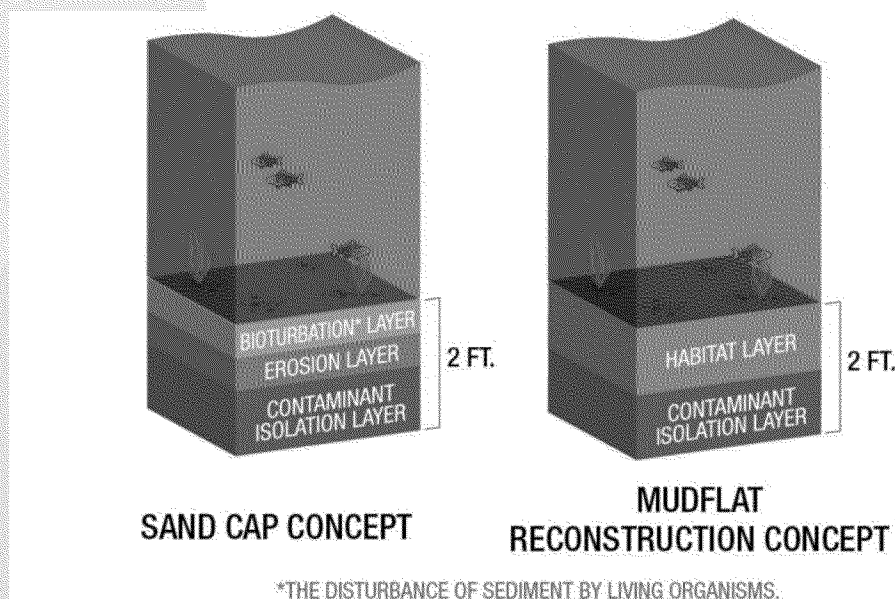


Figure 2: Examples of Caps





## 2.5. Next Steps

Table 5 below describes steps in the Superfund cleanup process. The cleanup of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River is at Step 6. Steps 7, 8 and 9 are forthcoming.

Table 5: Steps in the Superfund Process

STEP	NAME	DESCRIPTION
1	Preliminary Assessment/ Site Investigation (PA/SI)	The PA/SI involves a records review, site visits and limited soil and groundwater sampling to determine whether the site warrants further investigation.
2	National Priorities List (NPL) Listing	The NPL is a federal list of the most serious sites identified for long-term cleanup. When the EPA proposes to add a site to the NPL, the agency publishes a public notice about its intention in the Federal Register and issues a public notice through the local media to notify the community.
3	Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS)	The RI/FS involves more comprehensive sampling to identify the nature and extent of contamination at the site. The remedial investigation helps to determine the need for and extent of cleanup that might be required. The feasibility study identifies, describes and evaluates various alternatives for cleaning up the site. For complex sites, the EPA may do a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) as part of an early action to achieve significant risk reduction quickly or expedite the completion of total site cleanup.
4	EPA Proposed Plan and Public Comment Period	The Proposed Plan identifies the EPA's preferred alternative for cleanup and describes the other alternatives considered. Public meetings are held and comments are solicited and recorded.
5	Record of Decision (ROD)	The ROD documents the selected cleanup remedy and includes a response to public comments.
6	Remedial Design (RD)	During RD, the specific engineering aspects of the remedy selected in the ROD are designed, including land use controls, etc.
7	Remedial Action (RA)	The RA is the actual construction or implementation phase of Superfund site cleanup.
8	Long term operation and maintenance	Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the remedy ensure that the cleanup remains effective in protecting human health and the environment in the long-term.
9	Deletion from the NPL	A site may be deleted from the NPL when the final ROD requirements are attained (the remedial objectives) and the site is fully protective of human health and the environment.

## 2.6. Remedial Design (RD) and Remedial Action (RA)

**Remedial Design:** The phase that follows the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) and the Record of Decision and includes development of engineering drawings and specifications for a site cleanup.

Remedial design (RD) is the phase in Superfund site cleanup where the technical specifications for the cleanup are designed. During this phase, the EPA will consider community preferences expressed during the public comment period for the Proposed Plan and input gathered during additional public outreach in the design.



**Remedial Action:** The actual construction or implementation phase that follows the remedial design. Also referred to as site cleanup.

Remedial action (RA) follows the remedial design phase. It involves the actual construction or implementation of Superfund site cleanup. The RD/RA is based on the specifications described in the Record of Decision (ROD) and remedial design.

How to get involved during the cleanup design and construction:

- ❑ Learn about the design for the cleanup by attending public events or reading the information the EPA distributes.
- ❑ Work through the **Community Advisory Group (CAG)**, the **Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)** recipient or **Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program** provider to stay informed about the progress of the cleanup.
- ❑ Contact the EPA's [Community Involvement Coordinator](#) with questions or comment.

#### Decisions to be Made During the Design Phase of Cleanup

- ❑ Exact volume of sediment to be dredged.
- ❑ Selection of dredging technology – either hydraulic or mechanical.
- ❑ Sediment processing facility location.
- ❑ Transportation routes to move dredged materials for treatment and disposal.
- ❑ Sediment disposal and treatment locations.
- ❑ Engineered cap thickness and composition.
- ❑ Engineering performance standards.
- ❑ Quality of life performance standards such as air quality standards, noise and odor monitoring.

## 2.7. Long-term Monitoring and Maintenance

During construction, monitoring of water and air will be conducted to evaluate whether the cleanup activities are being managed most efficiently to reduce potential releases of contaminants to the environment. In instances in which water or air quality standards are exceeded, the related construction activity will be evaluated and additional protective measures implemented where appropriate. During and after construction, enhanced community outreach will be conducted regarding New Jersey's fish and crab consumption advisories to improve awareness.

After project completion, monitoring of contaminant levels in fish, water and sediment will be conducted to determine progress toward meeting cleanup goals. Monitoring and maintenance of the engineered cap will be required both on a regular basis and after significant storms. Controls prohibiting disturbance of the engineered cap by river users will be necessary to maintain cap integrity. A review of site conditions will be conducted at least once every five years, as required by federal law.

Opportunities for community involvement related to long-term monitoring and maintenance include:

- Working through the CAG or TAG to participate in and review the results of regular site evaluations.
- Visiting the river.
- Inviting the EPA's [Community Involvement Coordinator](#) to community events to discuss results of the five-year review.
- Planning an event to celebrate major milestones in the cleanup of the site.

## **2.8. Local Workforce Participation during Construction**

The EPA expects that hundreds of workers will be involved in the cleanup of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River. It is possible that many of those jobs will come from New Jersey, and some could include local workers from the affected communities along the Passaic River. In addition to these workers, numerous local vendors (including sign makers, concrete suppliers, fuel suppliers, food service companies, steel fabricators, etc.) will be needed to support the cleanup.

At the beginning of the construction phase of cleanup, the EPA will work closely with the companies that are performing the cleanup and their contractors to encourage local hiring and use of local support services to the maximum extent possible. The EPA will work closely with the Passaic River CAG, local officials, and other stakeholders to spread the word and provide contact information for those interested in applying for jobs. The EPA will broadly disseminate information on potential jobs and job training programs through a variety of ways, including community groups, local officials, and on the Web.

### 3. Community Feedback

The following section describes the history of community involvement in the broader Lower Passaic River Study Area.

#### 3.1. Highlights of Community Involvement to Date

The Diamond Alkali Site has generated a high level of public interest since it was first identified in the 1980s. The EPA's early outreach efforts on the Lower Passaic River included alerting the public about New Jersey's prohibitions and advisories on fish and crab consumption for the Lower Passaic River and Newark Bay.

In order to foster community involvement in the Lower Passaic River cleanup, beginning in 2004, the EPA convened quarterly meetings with stakeholders including the Partner Agencies, municipalities, PRPs and other interested parties and members of the public called Project Delivery Team (PDT) meetings. At the PDT meetings, the EPA reported on progress on various aspects of the Lower Passaic River investigation and cleanup work that was underway, including the focused study of the lower 8.3 miles. In 2011, PDT meetings were replaced by CAG meetings.

In 2009, the EPA facilitated the formation of a CAG, comprised of stakeholders with a broad range of interests. Representatives of EPA, NJDEP and the other Partner Agencies routinely attend CAG meetings, which are open to the public and generally held every month or every other month, at which any stakeholder may be invited by the CAG chairs to share Passaic River-related information with the community.

For the lower 8.3 miles, the EPA published an early draft FFS on its website in June 2007, inviting comment from all stakeholders. Further outreach efforts included convening PDT workgroup meetings to discuss formulating cleanup options, discussing current and future uses of the river with the CAG, convening a meeting of a broad range of stakeholders (from PRPs to municipal officials to environmental and community groups) in February 2011 to share views about remedial alternatives, discussing recreational uses of the river below Dundee Dam with rowing clubs, and consulting with the Corps on current and future uses of the federally authorized navigation channel. The EPA's Region 2 office also consulted with the EPA's Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG) and National Remedy Review Board (NRRB), each of which provided an opportunity for community participation in 2008 and 2012.

Then, in 2014, during the public comment period for the lower 8.3-mile Proposed Plan, the EPA held a series of public meetings in Newark, Kearny and Belleville to present the findings of the RI, the FFS and the EPA's Proposed Plan to the public, including local residents and officials, those who use the river for recreational or commercial purposes, and any other interested parties. The EPA also participated in various public forums and meetings sponsored by stakeholders to present information and answer questions about the RI/FFS and Proposed Plan.

### 3.2. Timeline of Major Community Involvement Activities

Table 6 lists major community involvement activities associated with the cleanup of the Lower Passaic River.

Table 6: Major Community Involvement Activities

DATE	ACTIVITY
2004	Quarterly meetings of the Project Delivery Team (PDT) convened to report on the various aspects of the Lower Passaic River investigation, including the focused study of the lower 8.3 miles of the river.
2004	Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) awarded to the Passaic River Coalition (PRC). PRC uses this grant to assist the community in interpreting technical documents associated with the study of the Lower Passaic River.
2004-05	The EPA conducts community interviews with more than 50 individuals across a broad spectrum of interests and in a variety of locations in NJ from Monmouth County, Keyport, and Sandy Hook to Newark, Rutherford, Clifton, and New York City.
2006	Community Involvement Plan for the Lower Passaic River and Newark Bay published.
2007	Draft Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) released on the EPA's website, inviting comment from all stakeholders.
2008	Eight stakeholder groups associated with the site are invited to present their views to the EPA's Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG).
2009	Community Advisory Group (CAG) specific to the Lower Passaic River cleanup is formed. CAG meetings are open to the public and are held monthly or every other month.
2011	The EPA convenes a meeting with a broad range of stakeholders to share views about cleanup options for the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River.
2012	The EPA provides a summary of the RI/FFS to CAG and stakeholders, so that they can provide input on the cleanup of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River to the National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) and CSTAG.  Written comments are submitted by a variety of environmental organizations, the CAG, PRPs, federal and state agencies, and the Ironbound Community Corporation.
2013	A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) is awarded to the NY/NJ Baykeeper.
2014	At the request of the CAG, the EPA provides them with a Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) contractor to respond to technical questions related to the lower 8.3 mile RI/FFS. The RI and FFS Reports are released for the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River, along with its Proposed Plan for remediation. The EPA solicits public comment on these documents, which are made available at local information repositories as well as on <a href="http://www.ourpassaic.org">www.ourpassaic.org</a> .  The EPA holds a series of public meetings in Newark, Kearny and Belleville to present the RI/FFS and the Proposed Plan to the public. Fact sheets summarizing the Proposed Plan and the various cleanup options are produced in English, Spanish and Portuguese and distributed at meetings and online.  The EPA conducts additional community interviews.
2016	The EPA conducts a third round of community interviews to assess the concerns, knowledge level, and needs of the community as related to the lower 8.3-mile ROD.



### 3.3. Overview of 2016 Community Interview Process

Three separate rounds of community interviews were conducted for the Lower Passaic River project. The first interviews were conducted in 2004-2005; the second round was conducted in 2014; and the third round in 2016 for a total of 85 interviews. In each round, a series of questions were asked across a variety of subjects, and interviewees were encouraged to share their opinions, concerns, suggestions, and criticisms in an honest and straightforward manner and fully engage with the EPA (and Partner Agencies).

In June and July of 2016, the EPA (with contractual support from the Louis Berger Group) conducted a round of community interviews to assess the concerns, knowledge level and needs of the community as related to the lower 8.3-mile ROD signed in March 2016. In order to expand upon the information gathered from previous interviews, interviews were targeted to the towns of Belleville, Kearny and Newark's North Ward. Approximately 12 individuals were interviewed from local civic, ethnic and social organizations, as well as representatives of local government, educators and coaches from local schools, recreational users of the river, and community members living near the Lower Passaic River.

A series of questions were asked to ascertain the public's knowledge of the recent EPA decision on the cleanup of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River; to uncover gaps in the knowledge base and develop efficient means to close them; to identify key concerns about the cleanup and its impacts to local land and business development, river access and health issues. Information gathered during these conversations was incorporated into this CIP. A copy of the community interview questions may be found in Appendix 16.

### 3.4. Key Community Concerns

The lists below highlight key concerns communicated to the EPA during the third round of community interviews. Community concerns associated with the first round of interviews may be found in the 2006 CIP, accessible at [www.ourpassaic.org](http://www.ourpassaic.org). Concerns raised in the second round may be found in Appendix 16.

#### Superfund Cleanup Activity Concerns

- ❑ Concerns were raised about the legal process potentially taking a long time and the cleanup being dragged out. The majority of interviewees expressed a desire for the cleanup to commence as soon as possible.
- ❑ Cleanup activities should take into consideration river traffic, especially the groups who row regularly on the river.
- ❑ Questions and concerns about the dredging included: how it will affect wildlife, how the dredged material will be transported and where it will go.
- ❑ One recommendation was to produce more information about the dewatering process and dredged materials management in general.
- ❑ Several concerns were raised about quality of life issues such as air quality, noise and odor concerns during work.

- ❑ Some interviewees mentioned trucking route concerns and potential impacts on local residents and businesses, as well as the need to take into account traffic and bridge closures.
- ❑ The EPA should coordinate early with local municipalities before cleanup activities on the river begin.
- ❑ Important that jobs are created locally. Employment, training and local hires were highly recommended.

#### **Redevelopment and River Access Concerns**

- ❑ Most interviewees expressed a desire for as much park and open space as possible along the river.
- ❑ Waterfront access was cited as a significant factor in economic development of the cities along the river.
- ❑ Nearly all interviewees stated that public input is essential regarding economic development issues.
- ❑ Overall, nearly all interviewees were interested in economic development and the role the river cleanup can play; some expressed concerns about the potential impacts of gentrification.

#### **Health and Quality of Life Concerns**

- ❑ There was general knowledge of anglers fishing along the Lower Passaic River, though interviewees lacked information about fish consumption.
- ❑ Some people expressed concerns about the homeless population along the river and potential consumption of contaminated fish, though none had witnessed homeless people fishing first-hand.
- ❑ Rowers are concerned about debris and trash in the water as well as general water quality concerns since they may come into contact with the water.

#### **Outreach Concerns and Suggestions**

- ❑ A majority of interviewees indicated a preference for informal meetings held in the evening. One person suggested a combination of formal and informal meeting formats and several mentioned that small group interaction is key.
- ❑ Suggestions for increased outreach included: cell phone text messaging, door-to-door visits, posters and banners, including information with utility bills, public access TV and radio stations, posting information to town websites, and attending community festivals as well as community board meetings and other groups' meetings.
- ❑ The EPA should make use of social media (Instagram, Snap Chat, Facebook, Twitter) to disseminate project-related information.
- ❑ Information should be provided in different languages to reach people who may not speak English (see Section 4.2). Information should be provided to local ethnic publications, especially in Spanish and Portuguese.
- ❑ For elderly residents, direct postal mailings were recommended as the most effective method of communication as well as continued outreach to senior groups.

- There was some awareness of the CAG by interviewees, but few participants attend regularly and some do not attend at all. There was an additional concern expressed about the need to recruit residents from mid-river and other towns to join the CAG.
- Most respondents believed that fact sheets are helpful, but felt that the EPA should use illustrations and graphics to explain technical issues.
- Few interviewees were aware of [www.ourpassaic.org](http://www.ourpassaic.org). Others recommended that it be more user-friendly.
- Few interviewees had familiarity with the Proposed Plan.
- In general, increased public education about the Lower Passaic River was strongly recommended. Suggestions were made that the EPA build capacity with local groups and thought leaders to conduct and expand outreach.



## 4. Community Profile

The following section describes the current physical, social, and economic conditions of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River. Information presented below was retrieved from the U.S. Census, NJ GIS, county websites, and municipal websites, among other sources. Some topics are presented at a county-specific level, while other topics such as population and demographics are discussed in finer detail.

### 4.1. Land Use Characteristics and Infrastructure

The lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River are located in a highly developed urban area. At the mouth of the river and around Newark Bay, the near-shore land uses are commercial and industrial, in part to take advantage of the transportation infrastructure (rail, air and marine). About four miles upriver from Newark Bay, commercial uses of near-shore properties begin to be mixed with more residential and recreational uses as well. There are narrow bands of park and open space along the river, surrounded by commercial and dense urban residential development. Near river mile seven, there are marinas and boat launches along with park land surrounded by more suburban residential neighborhoods. Hard shorelines, such as bulkhead and riprap (some with overhanging vegetation) make up approximately 95 percent of the banks of the lower 8.3 miles, while aquatic vegetation predominates along about 5 percent of the banks. Approximately 100 acres of the lower 8.3 miles consist of mudflats. Intertidal mudflats and the associated shallow-water subtidal areas are important habitats for estuarine organisms, providing valuable foraging habitat for fish, blue crab and water birds.

#### 4.1.1. Redevelopment

Since the mid-1990s, portions of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River have experienced significant real estate investment, including: the redevelopment of **Brownfields**, construction of new residential housing units, increased multi-modal transportation options, complete street improvements, enhanced open spaces, and the provision of public walkways. According to an August 2016 article in the *New York Times* (that cites the City of Newark's Department of Economic and Housing Development) about \$2 billion in commercial and residential development is currently underway, 1,500 units of housing are under construction, and another 4,000 are planned. Notable investments in Harrison include the Red Bull Arena, a 25,000-capacity stadium that serves as the home of Major League Soccer's New York Red Bulls. The first phase of Newark Riverfront Park was completed in August 2013 and now connects downtown Newark and the Ironbound to the Passaic River. The park has been widely praised as an oasis of active and passive recreation between the river and Raymond Boulevard. In October 2016, construction crews began the third phase of development, which will add four more acres of park land along the Passaic River. A signature feature of the expansion will be the Horizon Wellness Trail.

**The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)** is the federally authorized Metropolitan Planning Organization for all counties in the lower 8.3 miles.

#### 4.1.2. Transportation Infrastructure

Cities and towns throughout the study area are linked by a variety of major highways, including the New Jersey Turnpike (I-95), the Phillipsburg–Newark Expressway and the Newark Bay Extension of the New Jersey Turnpike (I-78), the Garden State Parkway, I-80, and I-287. The entire area is served by public transportation in the form of bus, train, and light rail service, and there is ferry service to and from New York City. Two heavily used transit systems within the study area are NJ TRANSIT and the Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH). Newark-Liberty International Airport, one of the nation's busiest international travel hubs, is located two miles south of downtown Newark.

#### 4.1.3. Drinking Water, Sewers and Power

The Lower Passaic River is not used as a source of drinking water. Drinking water is supplied by a number of water companies, including the Passaic Valley Water Commission, United Water, and Newark Water. It is derived from a variety of reservoirs including, but not limited to the Oradell Reservoir, the Boonton Reservoir, and the Wanaque Reservoir. Power is provided by PSE&G. The sewer system is operated by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC), in conjunction with the municipalities that operate certain portions of the system.

#### 4.1.4. Flood Control

The Passaic River Basin has been recognized by hydrologic experts as one of the most flood-prone river systems in the United States. On April 23, 2010, Governor Christie signed Executive Order 23, establishing the Passaic River Basin Flood Advisory Commission to develop and recommend solutions to the chronic flooding problems that plague New Jersey residents. In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, a number of communities in the Passaic River Basin are pursuing flood risk reduction changes to their master plans, zoning ordinances, and flood prevention ordinances, to guide future development away from **floodplains** or prevent future development in flood-prone areas.

#### 4.1.5. Recreation

There is a long tradition of rowing on the Passaic River, beginning with regattas held annually since the late 1800s. That tradition survives in the form of the Passaic River Rowing Association and the Nereid Boat Club, along with several high school rowing programs. These organizations sponsor regular rowing practice and events on the Passaic and promote stewardship of the Passaic River environment. Rowing associations and boating groups use the Passaic River from the spring to the late fall, which includes hosting and participating in regattas and races. Other types of recreational boating occur throughout the Lower Passaic River. For a list of seasonal events and activities related to the Passaic River, please see Appendix 14.

##### Public Parks and Recreational Areas Located near the Lower Passaic River

- ❑ Dundee Preserve, Clifton
- ❑ Glotzbach Memorial Park, Nutley
- ❑ Great Falls National Park, Paterson
- ❑ Hatheway Park, Wallington
- ❑ Kearny River Bank Park, Kearny
- ❑ Minish Park, Newark
- ❑ Pennington Park, Paterson
- ❑ Pulaski Park, Passaic
- ❑ Riverfront Park, Newark
- ❑ Riverside County Park, Lyndhurst
- ❑ Rutherford Memorial Park, Rutherford
- ❑ Van Winkle Park, Rutherford
- ❑ Waterfront Park, Wallington
- ❑ Westside Park, Paterson

#### 4.2. Population and Demographics

The following description of the population in the project area includes the eight municipalities that are most likely to be affected by the lower 8.3-mile cleanup, depending on where the sediment processing facility is located. Subsections 4.2.1 through 4.2.4 and 4.2.7 are discussed based upon statistical analysis of American Community Survey (ACS) data of the eight city area. The ACS provides cross-sectional data on social, economic, demographic and housing characteristics of the U.S. population at various geographic levels (nation, region, state, congressional district, census tract). In general, ACS estimates are period estimates that describe the average characteristics of population and housing over a period of data collection. The 2010-2014 ACS five-year estimates represent the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2014. Multiyear estimates cannot be used to say what is going on in any particular year in the period, only what the average value is over the full period.

##### Communities most likely to be affected by the cleanup of the Lower 8.3 Miles of the Passaic River

- ❑ Belleville, Essex County
- ❑ Bayonne, Hudson County
- ❑ East Newark, Hudson County
- ❑ Elizabeth, Union County
- ❑ Harrison, Hudson County
- ❑ Jersey City, Hudson County
- ❑ Kearny, Hudson County
- ❑ Newark, Essex County

##### 4.2.1. Population

According to ACS five-year estimates, the total population for the eight municipalities that are most likely to be affected by the lower 8.3-mile cleanup was approximately 821,090 people for the period between 2010 and 2014. The largest population was concentrated in Newark, which included 278,750 people on average between 2010 and 2014.

#### 4.2.2. Age

Median age represents the midpoint of the population. Half of the population is older than the median age, and half of the population is younger. Based on a five-year average, the median age in the eight municipalities was approximately 35 years for the period of 2010-2014. The lowest median ages were found in Newark (~32) and Elizabeth (~33). The highest median ages were in Belleville and Bayonne (~38).

#### 4.2.3. Household Income

Median income is the amount that divides the income distribution of a population into two equal groups, half having income above that amount and half having income below that amount. The median household income of residents in the eight municipalities, on average, was \$53,523 based on ACS five-year estimates for the period of 2010-2014. Based on data for the period 2010-2014, residents of Newark had the lowest median household income of \$34,012, while residents of Belleville had the highest median household income of \$65,462.

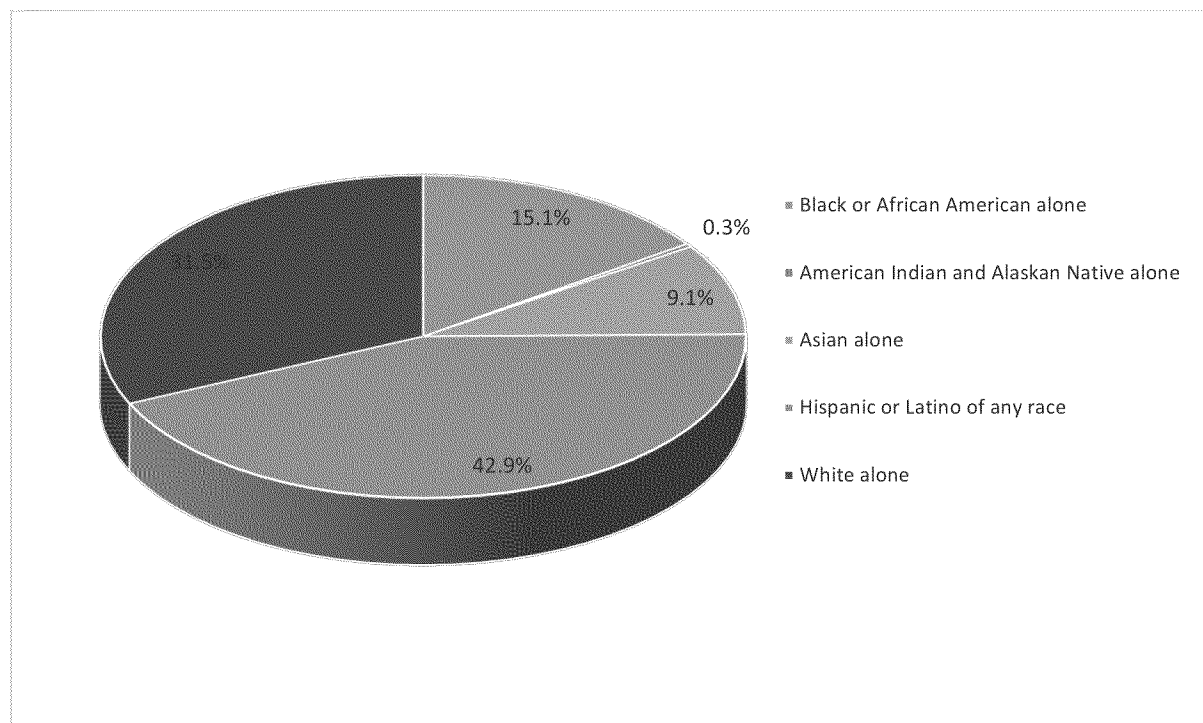
The U.S. Census Bureau's poverty statistics represent the number of people below the bureau's poverty thresholds. Poverty thresholds vary by family size, number of children, household units (single vs. multi-family), and whether or not respondents are elderly. The poverty rate for the category "all families" living in the eight municipalities was approximately 15 percent, on average, during this time period. Newark had the highest poverty rate for all families at approximately 27 percent. For the purposes of statistical analysis, a family consists of a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption. Unmarried couple households can be family or nonfamily households depending on the relationship of others in the household to the householder.

#### 4.2.4. Race and Ethnicity

Within the eight municipalities, the vast majority of the population (97 percent) identified as one race during the period of 2010-2014 (see Figure 3). Among these individuals, 15.1 percent self-identify as Black or African American alone; 0.3 percent self-identify as American Indian and Alaskan Native alone; 9.1 percent self-identify as Asian alone; and 31.5 percent self-identify as white alone. The U.S. Census does not have an estimate for Hispanic or Latino alone; 42.9 percent self-identify as Hispanic or Latino of any race.



Figure 3: Race in the Eight Municipalities



Source: U.S. Census, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2010-2014. Data reflects respondents who claimed only one race. For the purposes of this analysis, a statistically insignificant number self-identify as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone. Because Table 3 presents 5-year estimates, the percentages do not equal 100 percent. For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, refer to the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines "Hispanic or Latino" as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. The U.S. Census Bureau defines "Hispanic origin" as "the heritage, nationality, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before arriving in the United States." Since Hispanic or Latino can be of any race, the U.S. Census Bureau adopted an approach taken by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Education that clarifies the "White" and "Black" categories with the definition "not of Hispanic origin."

#### 4.2.5. Immigrant and Minority Population and Linguistic Trends

No single statistic or set of statistics can capture the complex population mix and levels of integration in urban America. Consequently, this section discusses communities broadly. New Jersey is recognized as one of the most racially and ethnically diverse states in the nation. According to data compiled by Rutgers University, the state's immigrant population has risen significantly – from 967,000 people in 1990 to more than 1.8 million in 2013. The state's largest foreign born populations come from India (10 percent), Mexico (6.7 percent), and the Philippines (4.9 percent). The most densely settled areas of New Jersey (e.g., Newark, Jersey City, Elizabeth, and Paterson) are likewise high-density centers of immigrant populations. For example, Jersey City has the second highest Asian Indian population in the state.

Top 10 languages besides English spoken at home in NJ (2009-2013):

1. Spanish
2. Chinese dialects
3. Portuguese
4. Tagalog
5. Italian
6. Korean
7. Gujarati
8. Polish
9. Hindi
10. Arabic

Within the eight municipalities most likely to be affected by the cleanup of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River, a number of languages other than English are spoken at home. Spanish is the second most spoken language in New Jersey with more than 1 million speakers in the state. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese, and other dialects) is spoken by 111,000 people in New Jersey.

According to a 2015 article by *NJ Spotlight* that relies on U.S. Census data, three of the "top 10 multilingual municipalities" in New Jersey are located within the communities potentially impacted by cleanup of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River. They include Jersey City, Newark, and Elizabeth. Among residents of Newark, there are an estimated 80,000 Spanish-speakers, 21,000 Portuguese and Portuguese Creole speakers, 2,600 French Creole speakers and nearly 5,000 speakers of

various African languages. Among the 67,000 Spanish speakers in Elizabeth, significant majorities are of Colombian, Ecuadoran, Salvadoran, Dominican, Cuban and/or Peruvian decent. Additionally, there are approximately 8,000 Portuguese speakers and 3,600 French Creole speakers.

#### 4.2.6. Environmental Justice

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898. This order directs agencies to address environmental and human health conditions in minority and low-income communities to avoid the disproportionate placement of any adverse effects from federal policies and actions on these populations. The EPA defines environmental justice as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Conditions giving rise to environmental justice concerns are specific to individual communities and their histories. Contributing factors may not be related to the cleanup of the Lower Passaic River, but are relevant to its impact on the health of the community. Urban communities typically face higher levels of **pollution** from multiple sources, including toxic waste sites, industrial plants and heavy city and port traffic. Environmental justice populations may also struggle with economic divestment, aging infrastructure and Brownfields. Economic divestment is the reduction of assets within a community or the opposite of investment.

#### 4.2.7. Education

Within the eight municipalities most likely to be affected by the cleanup of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River, approximately 80 percent of the population, on average, aged 25 years and older possessed at least a high school diploma or equivalent for the period 2010-2014.

Municipalities with the lowest percentage of individuals possessing this level of education or higher include Newark (71.4 percent) and Elizabeth (73.2 percent).

There are several large universities in the Lower 8.3 Mile Study Area:

- ▣ Rutgers University – Newark
- ▣ St. Peter's University
- ▣ The New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)
- ▣ The University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

Table 7: Demographic Summary Statistics

	CITY OR STATISTICAL AREA								COMBINED AREA	
	Bayonne	Belleville Township	East Newark	Elizabeth	Harrison	Jersey City	Kearny	Newark	Total	Average (rounded to nearest whole)
County	Hudson	Essex	Hudson	Union	Hudson	Hudson	Hudson	Essex		
Total population	64,763	36,201	2,577	126,964	14,436	255,861	41,538	278,750	821,090	
Median age (years)	38	38.3	32.8	32.5	34.5	33.5	36.7	32.1		35
Median household income (dollars)	\$55,224	\$65,462	\$53,750	\$43,966	\$53,772	\$58,907	\$63,093	\$34,012		\$53,520
Poverty rate for all families	13.0%	7.1%	16.6%	17.0%	12.0%	16.2%	8.4%	26.9%		15%
Percentage of the population aged 25 and older with a least a high school diploma or equivalent	88.1%	86.3%	79.0%	73.2%	76.1%	84.9%	81.5%	71.4%		80%



## 5. Community Involvement Action Plan

The following section discusses specific community outreach tools and activities that the EPA has used successfully. Not all of the tools listed will necessarily be used during the cleanup of the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River. In addition, the EPA may develop other activities to inform the community of the project and encourage community participation.

### 5.1. Communication Goals

The EPA is committed to involving the public in all stages of the Lower Passaic River cleanup. Four major goals will guide the community involvement and outreach process:

#### Goal 1: Be Appropriate

The EPA aims to use the most appropriate communication methods and tools for each segment of the public because one size does not fit all.

#### Goal 2: Be Understandable

The EPA endeavors to use clear, consistent language when communicating with the public. Technical aspects of the cleanup and decision-making processes will be explained using everyday language.

#### Goal 3: Be Responsive

The EPA will respond to community questions and concerns and will solicit feedback from community members throughout the cleanup process. Every effort will be made to respond in a timely manner.

#### Goal 4: Be Accurate

The EPA strives to provide the public with accurate and timely information. When new information is available, it will continue to be shared through the most appropriate methods.

To attain these goals, the EPA will reach out to and seek to involve the public in the broadest sense – those community members, interest groups and other organizations or institutions located in the project areas who are potentially affected by the project or problems being addressed through the project, or who closely identify with the cleanup or restoration efforts associated with the Lower Passaic River. The stakeholders that constitute the “public” within the project areas include:

- ☐ Community members, including homeless populations
- ☐ Elected officials
- ☐ Environmental organizations
- ☐ Academia
- ☐ Science foundations
- ☐ Business/Economic development organizations
- ☐ Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)
- ☐ Local, state, and federal agencies
- ☐ Civic/community groups

- ☐ Local media
- ☐ Sports/recreational clubs

The EPA will seek to use state and local officials to assist in community outreach and involvement in order to increase the frequency and consistency of communications. The agency will routinely coordinate with and brief local officials to ensure they are informed about all major aspects of the project and to provide opportunities for input into decision-making.

## 5.2. Community Involvement Tools and Outreach

Table 8 lists key tools that the EPA may use to communicate with stakeholders. Subsequent sub-sections discuss tools and outreach in further detail.

**Table 8: Key Tools**

TOOL	METHOD
Coordination with Local Government and Other Agencies	Coordinate with local government and other state and federal agencies to keep them informed about project activities and will schedule briefing meetings as needed to discuss the progress of cleanup.
Community Advisory Group	Provide information to the CAG.
Community Events	Attend community events such as fairs, festivals, boating regattas and races, and cultural festivities to distribute information and answer questions.
Community Involvement Coordinator	Return calls or respond to email in a timely manner.
Email	Continue to maintain an email group list to quickly provide the public with timely information on project developments and news.
Fact Sheets	Produce fact sheets throughout the life of the project to keep the public informed and educated on it and the decision-making process. Dissemination to the public through direct mailings, Web postings and at public forums will continue.
Fish and Crab Consumption Advisories	Work with NJDEP to educate communities about the potential dangers of eating contaminated fish and crab.
Health and Safety Information	Share information pertaining to health and safety with the community during scheduled public meetings and in informational materials created for the site. Anticipated topics of interest include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Trucking and transportation routes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work hours</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Worker protection</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Community safeguards</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental monitoring</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency response</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> River use restrictions</li> </ul>
Information Repositories	Update information repositories with copies (either electronic or paper) of major site documents, fact sheets, and other relevant items as they become available.
Maps and Visual Aids	Include maps, photographs, and other visual aids in documents and fact sheets, at public sessions, and on the website.
Media Notification/Media Events	Provide updates and information to local newspapers, radio, and television outlets.
Presentations	Provide presentations on site-related topics such as the design and cleanup process and monitoring and sampling techniques.
Press Releases	Disseminate press releases to local area media.

TOOL	METHOD
<a href="http://www.ourpassaic.org">Project Website</a> ( <a href="http://www.ourpassaic.org">www.ourpassaic.org</a> )	Post relevant project documents to the website, including new fact sheets, final technical documents, meeting announcements, etc.
Public Comment Period	Solicit public comment at key milestones and as required by law.
Public Input	Accept informal public input throughout the cleanup process.
Public Meetings	EPA will announce public meetings via a variety of methods such as: newspapers, the project website, town websites and the email list.
Public Notices	Announce public comment periods and public meetings via formal public notices in local publications and via the project website.
School/Education Outreach	Provide project information to local schools and academic institutions and will work with existing educational programs to “piggyback” project information and identify additional opportunities for environmental education.
Technical Assistance Services	Respond to community requests for technical assistance to understand the cleanup.

### 5.2.1. Community Advisory Group (CAG)

**Description:** A CAG is made up of representatives of diverse community interests who serve as liaisons for their communities and constituents. A CAG can assist the EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up a site. It offers a unique opportunity to hear—and seriously consider—community preferences for site cleanup and restoration. The existence of a CAG, however, does not eliminate the need for the EPA to keep the community informed about plans and decisions throughout the cleanup and restoration process.

**Goal:** Provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the decision-making process. This tool will also provide the community with an arena to raise issues already voiced as key concerns.

**Method:** The EPA will continue to communicate regularly with the CAG. The EPA will attend public CAG meetings and planning sessions. The EPA will present regular updates to the CAG and provide the CAG opportunities to provide comments on key aspects of the project and cleanup progress. In addition, the EPA will provide presentations on topics of interest as requested.

### 5.2.2. Community Events

**Description:** The EPA will attend community events such as fairs, festivals, boating regattas and races and cultural festivities to distribute information and answer questions.

**Goal:** Community events provide the EPA with the opportunity to build and maintain positive relationships with residents. These events also allow the agency to understand and appreciate the variety of events and activities that are important and enjoyed by community members. Community events also serve to enhance awareness about environmental justice issues and allow the EPA to interact directly with community members who might not typically attend EPA meetings.

**Method:** The EPA will continue to supply staff and provide information at a booth or table at appropriate events. Refer to Appendix 14 for a list of seasonal events and activities.

### 5.2.3. Coordination with Local Government and Other Agencies

**Description:** The EPA will coordinate with local government and other state and federal agencies to keep them informed of project activities and obtain feedback on their concerns. Communication with these representatives will continue through the life of the project.

**Goal:** To ensure that local government officials and other state and federal agencies are kept informed of project activities and issues that may impact their constituencies. Ongoing coordination with local governments and other agencies will address communities' concerns that may be associated with the project. Coordination will also foster consistency among local health advisories and clarify the roles played by various governmental entities.

**Method:** The EPA will continue to brief local government officials and other state and federal agencies on the cleanup progress throughout the life of the project.

### 5.2.4. Door-to-Door Notifications

**Description:** When the EPA or its contractors are working in the field or in the river, the agency may provide notices or solicit feedback from residents and businesses through door-to-door notifications. In person outreach will also be attempted with any homeless population in the area.

**Goal:** To communicate specific information regarding active field work or construction and convey pertinent health or safety information that may impact local residents or businesses.

**Method:** When the EPA or its contractors will be performing work that may impact nearby residences or businesses, representatives of the agency may make personal visits to those immediately affected to ensure that they are properly notified.

### 5.2.5. Email

**Description:** Electronic mail can be used to contact agency representatives for information or to ask questions and receive answers about the projects. Email addresses and links are provided on the project website at [www.ourpassaic.org](http://www.ourpassaic.org), and email contact information is included in all outreach materials.

**Goal:** Email provides another method to assist the public in providing input or requesting information.

**Method:** The EPA maintains an email list to provide the public with news and timely information on project developments.

To sign up for EPA emails, please contact:

Sophia Rini, Community Involvement Coordinator  
[rini.sophia@epa.gov](mailto:rini.sophia@epa.gov)

Alice Yeh, Project Manager  
[yeh.alice@epa.gov](mailto:yeh.alice@epa.gov)

### 5.2.6. Fact Sheets

**Description:** Fact sheets, also called project updates, are brief documents written in plain language, often containing user-friendly graphics, to help the public understand highly technical reports, concepts, and information.



**Goal:** Provide information about the cleanup in an easy-to-understand format.

**Method:** Fact sheets will continue to be produced throughout the life of the project to keep the public informed on cleanup progress and the decision-making process. Dissemination to the public through email, Web postings, and at public forums will continue. As needed, the EPA will provide translation of fact sheets and project updates into Spanish and/or Portuguese. Please see Appendix 17 for examples of fact sheets.

#### 5.2.7. Field Notifications

**Description:** This type of information consists of advisories, restrictions and explanatory signs posted to clearly mark for the public any project work areas and access restrictions.

**Goal:** These notifications are intended to keep the public informed of project field activities and maintain public safety. They will address the specific key public concern of the potential health issues related to the Lower Passaic River, such as New Jersey's prohibitions against eating fish and crab due to contamination.

**Method:** All advisories, signs and restrictions to access or project work areas will continue to be clearly posted and may be translated into languages other than English. Health and Safety Plans will also be used to inform and maintain a safe environment for both the public and project workers.

#### 5.2.8. Information Repositories

**Description:** Information repositories are located in local public buildings such as libraries, universities or government offices where site-related and supporting documents are available for public review. Information repositories for the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project and Newark Bay Study are located at the EPA Records Center, Newark Public Library, and Elizabeth Public Library (see Appendix 12). The documents in the information repositories (called the **Administrative Record**) are also available on the EPA's [website](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/02/AR63167). (<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/02/AR63167>)

**Goal:** Provide accessible public locations at which residents can read and copy official documents. Provide a website where stakeholders can download and read documents.

**Method:** The EPA will continue to maintain the information repositories, adding documents and information as they become available.

#### 5.2.9. Maps and Visual Aids

**Description:** Maps and visual aids help people understand the geography of the site and locations of activities and resources, especially in relation to where they live, work, and attend school.

**Goal:** To communicate complex issues simply and effectively.

**Method:** Inclusion of maps, photographs, and other visual aids in documents and fact sheets, at public sessions, and on the website [www.ourpassaic.org](http://www.ourpassaic.org).

#### 5.2.10. Media Notification/Media Events

**Description:** The EPA will continue to provide updates and information to local newspapers, radio and television outlets.

**Goal:** To reach a large audience quickly and reinforce important messages and information related to the project.

**Method:** The EPA will continue to coordinate with key stakeholders to ascertain the best media outlets to reach the target audience, ensuring that the entire project area is covered by those outlets and that the information presented is concise and understandable. See Appendix 13 – Media List.

#### 5.2.11. Newsletters

**Description:** Newsletters use clear, understandable language, are more community-oriented, and may include articles, columns and photographs.

**Goal:** To keep the public informed and up to date, and regularly provide information. Newsletters will serve to enhance the public knowledge base on issues regarding project status and information.

**Method:** If newsletters are created in the future, the EPA intends to distribute them via email and post them to [www.ourpassaic.org](http://www.ourpassaic.org). Print copies will be made available at public meetings and forums on the project and will be provided to stakeholder organizations, which will help achieve a broader reach. At other Superfund sites, newsletters have been mailed, on a limited basis, to those on a postal mailing list. The EPA may periodically review the efficiency and effectiveness of mailing newsletters on this project and will consult with stakeholders in deciding how this tool would be implemented.

#### 5.2.12. Public Comment Period

**Description:** This is a formal opportunity for community members to review and comment on various agency documents or actions. Comment periods are legally required for, among other things, proposed plans, **consent decrees** and the addition to or deletion of a site from the NPL.

**Goal:** Provides an opportunity for the public to give meaningful input in the decision-making process.

**Method:** The EPA has announced each comment period through one or more of the following methods: public notices in local newspapers, email notifications and fact sheets to ensure that the public has sufficient opportunity to understand what is being presented, when comments will be accepted, how long the comment period will be open and how to submit comments.

#### 5.2.13. Public Input

**Description:** Written communications and informal discussions with agency staff are just some of the ways that the EPA can be reached to communicate about project-related information.

This open line of communication is important to gain better understanding of the public's concerns and needs, so that they can be addressed efficiently and effectively.

**Goal:** Verbal comments and letters provide continued opportunity for the public to give input and allow the EPA to recognize trends in issues of public concern and identify areas that require information and clarification.

**Method:** Informal comments can be offered at any time, such as during availability sessions, open houses, community visits, and workshops. See Appendix 3 for agency contact information. Written comments may be submitted via mail or email.

#### 5.2.14. Public Meetings and Public Information Sessions

**Description:** Public meetings are structured, formal meetings, often required by law, that are open to the general public, featuring a presentation and interaction with the public. Public meetings may feature the use of a court reporter and the issuance of meeting transcripts. Other types of meetings are less formal and may be held in a variety of formats including small group discussions, informal open-house style information sessions and poster presentations.

**Goal:** To provide personal contact with agency representatives, update the community on site developments and address community concerns, ideas, questions and comments.

**Method:** At various stages throughout the project, the EPA will hold meetings to keep the public informed, answer questions and further explain the cleanup process. Each meeting will be structured to fit its purpose by using different formats (e.g. open houses, informal discussions, PowerPoint presentations, etc.).

#### 5.2.15. Public Notices

**Description:** Widely distributed announcements of public comment periods, public meetings and major project milestones.

**Goal:** Communicate an important announcement to as many people as possible.

**Method:** Public notices have been released to announce public comment periods and public meetings using a wide variety of places and methods, such as: email notices, project website announcements, press releases and newspaper display ads. The EPA has also reached out to stakeholder and community groups to request their assistance in getting out the word.

#### 5.2.16. Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

**Description:** Radio PSAs may be used to announce project news and provide basic information about upcoming public meetings and forums being held by the EPA on the project. Local public access television is also a medium that may be used as appropriate.

**Goal:** To distribute project information to a broad audience, including non-English speakers.

**Method:** The EPA may produce PSAs, and working with appropriate local media, ensure that the announcements are delivered to as wide an audience as possible. PSAs will incorporate a reminder message, where feasible and appropriate, regarding fish and crab consumption advisories in effect for the Newark Bay and Lower Passaic River study areas.

### 5.2.17. Project Site Visits/Tours

**Description:** Small groups can be given guided tours to view project activities when such tours are appropriate, feasible and safe.

**Goal:** Site visits and demonstrations provide the public with a good, working understanding of project work and conditions. Bringing the public to the project areas and demonstrating and/or discussing project activities in the field will provide project updates and address community concerns that surround the Lower Passaic River and Newark Bay.

**Method:** The EPA may conduct tours within the project areas to explain field activities and why they are important to the project. There may be activity or location-specific circumstances however, where the EPA will have to limit activities or areas visited given health and safety requirements.

### 5.2.18. Project Roadmap

**Description:** Over the course of the Lower Passaic River Study, a significant amount of technical work will continue to be performed, and many technical documents will continue to be developed, providing a basis for cleanup decisions. The roadmap will describe the major project activities and include a listing of the reports that will be prepared by the EPA. The roadmap will contain a description of the major issues addressed in each report and highlight some of the planned public involvement activities.

**Goal:** The intent of the roadmap is to illustrate the general sequence of events that takes place over the period of time leading up to and including the decision-making process for the Lower Passaic River and Newark Bay Study Areas. The roadmap functions as an important tool to assist the public in understanding the flow of the projects, as well as the various types of documents that are part of the process. By illustrating the project in “installments,” the roadmap aids in addressing the public concern of how to best communicate the project over time.

**Method:** The EPA may create the project roadmap as a stand-alone document that will be periodically updated as work progresses.

### 5.2.19. Project Websites

**Description:** Electronic versions of technical reports, progress reports and updates on the Lower Passaic River cleanup are available on [www.ourpassaic.org](http://www.ourpassaic.org) and via the [EPA's Diamond Alkali Superfund website](http://www.epa.gov/diamond).

(<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0200613>) The websites also provide links to the websites of the Partner Agencies and to other related sources of information.

**Goal:** The [www.ourpassaic.org](http://www.ourpassaic.org) website provides key resources for accessing both general and specific information about the project, the Partner Agencies, and public outreach activities. Access to the website is available through home and public computers at libraries throughout the project area.



**Method:** The EPA will continue to post project updates, notices and technical documents in a timely manner. The website is updated and enhanced regularly. Moving forward, the EPA may periodically solicit input from the public at public forums and workgroup meetings on how to make the website more fun, interesting and useful. Feedback to the website contacts is encouraged.

#### 5.2.20. School/Educational Outreach

**Description:** The EPA will provide project information to local schools and academic institutions and will work with existing educational programs to “piggyback” project information and identify additional opportunities for environmental education.

**Goal:** Educational outreach helps bring project awareness to new audiences and builds bridges between the agencies and various constituencies within the community. Engaging students and teachers will assist in addressing a number of community concerns such as: sharing important information about fish and crab consumption advisories, raising awareness of environmental justice issues and encouraging environmental stewardship.

**Method:** Educators and students may request a visit to their school by EPA staff. Agency staff will also maintain an open line of communication with groups that provide environmental education to local schools and partner with them when appropriate.

#### 5.2.21. Superfund Jobs Training Initiative (Super JTI)

**Description:** Super JTI is an environmental cleanup job readiness program that provides free job training and employment opportunities for citizens living in communities affected by Superfund sites.

**Goal:** To assist communities in the development of job opportunities and partnerships that remain long after a Superfund site is cleaned up, especially in communities facing environmental justice challenges.

**Method:** The EPA offers SuperJTI training through its Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program (see 5.2.24) and is subject to funding availability. SuperJTI combines classroom instruction with hands-on training exercises for each participant. Program graduates gain the technical skills necessary to work on a broad range of projects in environmental remediation and construction fields. Positions may include dump truck drivers, environmental technicians, general production operators, material handlers and heavy equipment operators.

#### 5.2.22. Surveys/Focus Groups

**Description:** The EPA will consider conducting print or telephone surveys to solicit public feedback. The EPA will also consider conducting focus groups on public concerns, issues and feedback regarding the project or specific issues within the project.

**Goal:** Surveys and focus groups allow the EPA to continue to identify and address community concerns and issues related to the project. They also serve as a “snapshot in time” of the effectiveness of agency communication with the public and the establishment of meaningful dialogue. The EPA may also use this tool to gauge public concern/opinions about various key

issues that have been raised, such as communications and the relationship between the public, agencies, and the PRPs, as well as land use and redevelopment issues.

**Method:** Surveys may be used as necessary, particularly in communities that have questions and concerns about the project, but may not have had much access to other community involvement and outreach activities. Focus groups may be helpful in assisting the agency to ascertain public awareness and feelings about specific issues within the project scope, such as fish consumption advisories, environmental justice issues, and specific populations of concern.

#### 5.2.23. Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

**Description:** A TAG provides money to community groups so they can hire technical advisors to interpret and explain technical reports, site conditions and the EPA's cleanup proposals and decisions at Superfund sites. An initial TAG of up to \$50,000 is available for any Superfund site that is on the EPA's NPL or proposed for listing on the NPL where a response action has begun. As specified in Section 117(e) of the Superfund law, there can be only one TAG for each Superfund site. When the grant recipient changes, however, (e.g. when the EPA or the recipient terminates the original TAG), the process of applying for a TAG starts over.

**Goal:** The goal of a TAG is to help improve a community's understanding of the environmental conditions and cleanup activities at Superfund sites.

**Method:** The EPA will continue to provide TAG support. From 2013 to the present, the TAG has been held by the New York/New Jersey Baykeeper. (See Appendix 10 – Stakeholder Groups for contact information.)

#### 5.2.24. Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program

**Description:** The national Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program provides independent assistance through an EPA contract to help communities better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions. Under the TASC contract, a contractor provides scientists, engineers and other professionals to review and explain information to communities. The services are determined on a project-specific basis and provided at no cost to communities.

**Goal:** To support community efforts to become more involved and work productively with the EPA to address environmental issues. The TASC program benefits communities by explaining technical findings and answering community questions, helping them understand complex environmental issues and supporting their active roles in protecting healthy communities and advancing environmental protection. The TASC program can also provide opportunities for environmental education, bring diverse groups together and help them get more involved and offer training and support environmental employment opportunities through the Superfund Job Training Initiative.

**Method:** Communities in the project areas may contact the EPA Region 2 TASC Coordinator. Requests are evaluated against a number of criteria to determine if technical assistance can be provided. More information on the TASC program and the criteria used to evaluate requests are available at [EPA's website](https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program#map). (<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program#map>)

EPA Region 2 TASC  
Coordinator

Wanda Ayala  
(212) 637-3676  
[ayala.wanda@epa.gov](mailto:ayala.wanda@epa.gov)

### 5.2.25. Toll-free Hotline

**Description:** The EPA may establish a toll-free hotline with recorded project information in both English and Spanish. The line will also provide connection to the appropriate agency representative.

**Goal:** To provide the public with a direct method of communication with the EPA, which is particularly important for those individuals who may not have reliable Internet access.

**Method:** A toll-free hotline was created for the Tierra Removal with language options in English, Spanish, and Portuguese that is no longer in service. The EPA currently has a general Public Information Hotline that may be accessed toll-free at 1-877-251-4575.

## 5.3. Evaluation of Outreach

In order to assess the effectiveness of the community involvement and outreach efforts, the EPA may employ several tools to periodically evaluate messages, modes of communication, tools and outreach activities. Evaluations allow understanding of successes and weaknesses and enable the agency to retool strategies to better serve the public. This CIP will be reviewed and revised as necessary to reflect project progress and changes to community needs, concerns, issues and contacts.

Following interactive activities like public forums and poster sessions, the EPA may conduct a basic internal analysis, which involves assessing the ease of logistics, the number and representation of attendees and the appropriateness of information (i.e., was it sufficient to answer questions). The agency may also employ surveys and interviews to gauge public perceptions at various stages of cleanup. These may be conducted in person, via the Internet or over the phone.

This “Draft for Public Comment” includes only the appendices that are relevant for comment.



## Appendix 1 – Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACS	American Community Survey
AOC	Administrative Order on Consent
CDF	Confined Disposal Facility
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
cm	Centimeter
COPCs	Contaminants of Potential Concern
CPG	Cooperating Parties Group
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
CSTAG	Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group
cy	Cubic yard
DDD	Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane
DDE	Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DDx	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
D/F	Dioxins/Furans
EJ	Environmental Justice
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERA	Ecological Risk Assessment
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFS	Focused Feasibility Study
FS	Feasibility Study
ft	Feet
HRE	Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Study
HSRC	Hazardous Substance Research Centers
JTI	Jobs Training Initiative

NPL	National Priorities List
NRDA	Natural Resource Damage Assessment
NRDAR	Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration
NJ	New Jersey
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NJDOT	New Jersey Department of Transportation
NJPDES	New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPL	National Priorities List
NRRB	National Remedy Review Board
NY	New York
NY/NJ	New York/New Jersey
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
PANYNJ	Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PCDD/F	Polychlorinated Dibenzodioxins and Furans
PDT	Project Delivery Team
PRPs	Potentially Responsible Parties
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RI	Remedial Investigation
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study
RM	River Mile
ROD	Record of Decision
TAG	Technical Assistance Grant
TASC	Technical Assistance Services for Communities
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WRDA Water Resources Development Act

## Appendix 2 – Glossary

**Administrative Record:** The body of documents that “forms the basis” for the selection of a particular response at a site. For example, the Administrative Record for remedy selection includes all documents that were “considered or relied upon” to select the remedy through the record of decision.

**Advisory:** State-generated health warning regarding the consumption of contaminated animals (e.g., fish, waterfowl). These advisories include advice on how to reduce exposures to chemical contaminants in fish and game by avoiding or reducing consumption and by the use of filleting/trimming and cooking techniques to further reduce contaminant levels. NJDEP issues the fish consumption advisories in NJ.

**Bioaccumulation:** The process by which the chemical concentration in an aquatic organism achieves a level that exceeds that in the water, as a result of chemical uptake through all possible routes of exposure.

**Brownfields:** Abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

**Capping:** A technology to address contaminated sediment which places clean sand or gravel over the contaminated sediment to isolate the contaminants from the surrounding environment.

**Cleanup:** Actions taken to deal with a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that could affect humans and/or the environment. The term “cleanup” is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms “remedial action,” “remediation,” “removal action,” “response action” or “corrective action.”

**Community:** An interacting population of various types of individuals (or species) in a common location; a neighborhood or specific area where people live.

**Community Advisory Group (CAG):** A committee, task force, or board made up of residents affected by a Superfund or other hazardous waste site. A CAG provides a way for representatives of diverse community interests to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the site and the site cleanup process. CAGs are a community initiative and responsibility. They function independently of the EPA and the other Partner Agencies.

**Community Involvement and Outreach:** The term used to identify the process for engaging in dialogue and collaboration with communities. Community involvement is founded on the belief that people have a right to know what the government is doing in their community and to have a say in it. Its purpose is to give people the opportunity to become involved in the government’s activities and to help shape the decisions that are made.

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA):** Commonly known as Superfund, CERCLA is intended to protect human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Under the program, EPA either can pay for a site cleanup when parties responsible for



the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to perform the work, or take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or repay the federal government for the cleanup cost.

**Consent Decree:** A legal document, approved by a judge, that formalizes an agreement reached between parties. For example, the EPA and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) may sign a consent decree through which PRPs will conduct all or part of a cleanup action at a Superfund site; cease or correct actions or processes that are polluting the environment; reimburse the EPA for monies expended in the course of an EPA-performed cleanup or otherwise comply with EPA-initiated regulatory enforcement actions to resolve the contamination at the Superfund site involved. The trustees may sign a consent decree with the PRPs regarding natural resource damages at a site. Or, the trustees and the EPA may sign one consent decree with the PRPs to resolve all the issues at the site. The consent decree describes the actions PRPs will take, is subject to a public comment period prior to its approval by a judge, and is enforceable as a final judgment by a court.

**Clean Water Act (CWA):** A 1972 law that established the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulates quality standards for surface waters.

**Contaminant:** Any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance or matter that has an adverse effect on air, water or soil.

**Dredging:** The removal of material from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbors and other bodies of water.

**Ecosystem:** The complex of a community and its environment functioning as an ecological unit in nature.

**Environmental Justice:** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, education or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Implies that no population of people should be forced to shoulder a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts of pollution or environmental hazard due to a lack of political or economic strength levels.

**Feasibility Study (FS):** Evaluation of alternatives for cleanup and restoration, including overall protection of human health and the environment, ability to be implemented and cost effectiveness, among others.

**Floodplain:** Low-lying lands near rivers that are submerged when the river overflows its banks.

**Habitat:** A place where a plant or animal species naturally exists.

**Harbor Estuary Program (HEP):** A multi-year effort to develop and implement a plan to protect, conserve and restore the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary. The NY/NJ Harbor Estuary includes the waters of New York Harbor and the tidally influenced portions of all rivers and streams that empty into the Harbor, including the Passaic River and Newark Bay. Participants in the program include representatives from local, state, and federal environmental agencies,

scientists, citizens, business interests, environmentalists and others. The EPA is coordinating with HEP participants to ensure that actions taken at the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project and Newark Bay Study consider the broader ecosystem and consider the results of HEP's modeling/monitoring efforts when selecting cleanup plans. For more information on HEP, please visit [www.harborestuary.org](http://www.harborestuary.org).

**Hazardous Substance:** (1) Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive or chemically reactive. (2) Any substance designated by EPA to be reported if a designated quantity of the substance is spilled into the waters of the United States or is otherwise released into the environment.

**Hazardous Waste:** By-products of society that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly handled. These wastes possess at least one of the following characteristics: toxicity, corrosivity, ignitability or reactivity.

**Hudson-Raritan Estuary (HRE):** An area within the boundaries of the Port District of New York and New Jersey, and situated within a 25 mile radius of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. The HRE study area includes eight Planning Regions: 1) Jamaica Bay; 2) Lower Bay; 3) Lower Raritan River; 4) Arthur Kill/Kill Van Kull; 5) Newark Bay, Hackensack River and Passaic River; 6) Lower Hudson River; 7) Harlem River, East River, and Western Long Island Sound; and 8) Upper Bay.

**Hudson-Raritan Estuary (HRE) Ecosystem Restoration Program:** A comprehensive program to restore and protect lost or degraded aquatic, wetland and terrestrial habitats within the HRE study area. These activities will be accomplished by implementing various site-specific ecosystem restoration projects formulated within the context of an overall strategic plan.

**Information Repository:** A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents regarding a site. The information repository usually is located in a public building convenient for local residents such as a public school, town hall or library. See Appendix 11 for locations.

**Lower Passaic River Restoration Project:** An integrated, joint effort among state and federal agencies to study and identify cleanup and restoration options for the Lower Passaic River.

**Memorandum of Agreement:** A Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA"), also known as a memorandum of understanding, is a formal business document used to outline an agreement made between two separate entities, groups or individuals. A MOA usually precedes a more detailed contract or agreement between the parties.

**Memorandum of Understanding:** See definition for Memorandum of Agreement.

**Monitoring:** Periodic or continuous surveillance or testing to determine the level of compliance with statutory requirements and/or pollutant levels in various media or in humans, plants and animals.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969:** A law that requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the environmental impacts of, and reasonable alternatives to, their proposed actions.

**National Priorities List (NPL):** The EPA's list of serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term cleanup under Superfund. The list is based primarily on the score a site receives from the Hazard Ranking System. The EPA is required to update the NPL at least once a year.

**Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR):** The process of collecting, compiling and analyzing information, statistics or data to determine damages for injuries to and restoration of natural resources.

**Natural Resources:** Land, fish, wildlife, air, water, groundwater, drinking water supplies and other such resources belonging to, managed by, or controlled by the United States, a state or local government, any foreign government, any Indian tribe, or any member of an Indian tribe.

**Newark Bay:** A tidally influenced estuarine system situated within a highly industrialized and heavily populated region, adjacent to the cities of Newark, New Jersey and Elizabeth, New Jersey. It continues to suffer from environmental degradation.

**Partner Agencies:** The Corps, the State of New Jersey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

**Pesticide:** Substances or mixture thereof intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. Also, any substance or mixture for use as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant.

**Pollution:** Generally, the presence of matter or energy whose nature, location or quantity produces undesired environmental effects that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource or the health of humans, animals or ecosystems.

**Potentially Responsible Party (PRP):** An individual, company, or other entity (i.e., owners, operators, transporters, or generators of hazardous waste) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a Superfund site. When possible, the EPA requires a PRP, through administrative and legal actions, to clean up hazardous waste sites that it has contaminated.

**Proposed Plan:** A plan for a site cleanup that is available to the public for comment.

**Public Comment Period:** A formal opportunity for community members to review and contribute written comments on various documents or actions.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** A decision document through which a cleanup is selected. It is often referred to in the context of Superfund sites; however, records of decision are also used at restoration sites under WRDA.

**Remedial Action (RA):** The actual construction or implementation phase that follows the remedial design. Also referred to as site clean-up.

**Remedial Design (RD):** The phase that follows the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) and the Record of Decision and includes development of engineering drawings and specifications for a site cleanup.

**Remedial Investigation (RI):** An in-depth study designed to gather data needed to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a Superfund site, identify human health and ecological risks, and establish preliminary site cleanup criteria. The remedial investigation is usually concurrent with the feasibility study. Together they are usually referred to as the "RI/FS."

**Remediation:** Cleanup or other methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a Superfund site.

**Restoration:** Actions undertaken to return an injured resource to its baseline condition, that is the condition of the resource had the release not occurred. Restoration consists of two types of activities: primary and compensatory. Primary restoration encompasses actions taken by trustees to accelerate the recovery of an injured resource to its baseline. Natural recovery is considered in the analysis of options for primary restoration. Compensatory restoration compensates for the interim loss of resources from the time the injury occurs until restoration is complete.

**Sediment:** Topsoil, sand and minerals washed from the land into water, usually after rain or snow melt.

**Stakeholder:** People, interest groups and other organizations or institutions that live in the project areas or closely identify with the issues associated with the project.

**Superfund:** The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA that funds, oversees, and carries out EPA solid waste emergency and long-term cleanup activities. These activities include establishing the National Priorities List, investigating sites for inclusion on the list, determining their priority for evaluation and conducting and/or supervising a remedial investigation/feasibility study, cleanup and other remedial actions.

**Technical Assistance Grant (TAG):** A TAG provides money for activities that help communities participate in decision-making at eligible Superfund sites. An initial grant up to \$50,000 is available for any Superfund site that is on the EPA's NPL or proposed for listing on the NPL and where a response action has begun. An additional \$50,000 may be provided by the EPA at complex sites.

**Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC):** The national TASC program provides independent assistance through an EPA contract to help communities better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions. Under the TASC contract, a contractor provides scientists, engineers and other professionals to review and explain information to communities.

**Toxicity:** A relative property of a chemical that refers to its potential to have a harmful effect on a living organism. It is a function of the concentration of the chemical and the duration of exposure



**Water Resources Development Act (WRDA):** A biennial piece of legislation that is the main vehicle for authorizing water projects to be studied, planned, and developed by USACE. It is also the legislative vehicle for implementing policy changes with respect to the Corps' water resource projects and programs.

## Appendix 9 – Regional Authorities

### Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC)

Brian Davenport, River Restoration Manager

600 Wilson Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07105  
Phone: 973-466-2714

Bridget McKenna, Chief Operating Officer, Plant Operations  
Phone: 973-817-5782

### Port Authority of NY & NJ

4 World Trade Center  
150 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: 212-435-7000

### New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program

17 Battery Place, Suite 915  
New York, NY 10004  
Phone: 212-483-7667  
Email: [info@harborestuary.org](mailto:info@harborestuary.org)

## Appendix 10 – Stakeholder Groups

### American Littoral Society

Don Riepe, Director Northeast Chapter  
28 W. 9 Road  
Broad Channel, NY 11693  
718-634-6467  
Email: [NEchapter@littoralsociety.org](mailto:NEchapter@littoralsociety.org)

### Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissioners

Jennifer Coffey  
PO Box 157  
Mendham, NJ 07945  
Phone: 973-539-7547  
Email: [info@anjec.org](mailto:info@anjec.org)

### Clean Ocean Action

Cindy Zipf, Exec. Director  
18 Hartshorn Dr.  
PO Box 505  
Sandy Hook, NJ 07732  
Phone: 732-872-0111  
Email: [info@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:info@CleanOceanAction.org)

### Environmental Defense Fund

Jim Tripp  
New York Headquarters  
257 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10010  
Phone: 212-505-2100  
Fax: 212-505-2375  
Email: via organization website  
[www.edf.org](http://www.edf.org)

### Future City, Inc.

Michele McBean, Exec. Director  
1139 East Jersey St.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
Phone: 908-659-0689  
Fax: 908-353-1511  
Email: [info@futurecityinc.org](mailto:info@futurecityinc.org)

### Green Faith

Rev. Fletcher Harper, Exec. Director  
101 South Third Ave., #12  
Highland Park, NJ 08904  
Phone: 732-565-7740  
Fax: 732-565-7790  
Email: [revfharper@greenfaith.org](mailto:revfharper@greenfaith.org)

### Greater Newark Conservancy

Robin L. Dougherty, Exec. Director  
32 Prince St.  
Newark, NJ 07103  
Phone: 973-642-4646  
Fax: 973-642-2218  
Email: Via website – [www.citybloom.org](http://www.citybloom.org)

### Hackensack Riverkeeper

Bill Sheehan  
231 Main St.  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
Phone: 201-968-0808  
Fax: 201-968-0336  
Email: [info@hackensackriverkeeper.org](mailto:info@hackensackriverkeeper.org)

### Hudson River Foundation

Dennis Suszkowski  
1 Battery Place, Ste. 915  
New York, NY 10004  
Phone: 212-483-7667  
Fax: 212-924-8325  
Email: [info@hudsonriver.org](mailto:info@hudsonriver.org)

### Immigration & American Citizenship Organization (IACO)

647 Main Ave., Ste. 205  
Passaic, NJ 07024  
Phone: 973-472-4648  
Fax: 973-472-4889  
Email: [info@iacoimmigration@msn.com](mailto:info@iacoimmigration@msn.com)

**Ironbound Community Corporation**

317 Elm St.  
Newark, NJ 07105  
Phone: 973-465-0555  
Fax: 973-465-0505  
Email: [www.ironboundcc.org](http://www.ironboundcc.org)

**Jersey Coast Anglers**

Tom Fote  
1594 Lakewood R.  
Unit 13  
Toms River, NJ 08755  
Phone: 732-506-6565  
Email: [tfote@JCAA.org](mailto:tfote@JCAA.org)

**La Casa de Don Pedro**

Raymond Ocasio  
75 Park Ave.  
Newark, NJ  
Phone: 973-482-8312  
Fax: 973-482-1883

**Mt. Prospect Partnership**

Mike Sheehan  
643 Mt. Prospect Ave.  
Newark, NJ 07104  
201-981-2667

**Newark, NJ Natural Resources Defense Council**

Brad Sewell  
40 W. 20 St.  
New York, NY 10011  
Phone: 212-727-2700  
Email: [nrdcinfo@nrdc.org](mailto:nrdcinfo@nrdc.org)

**Nereid Boat Club**

3350 Riverside Ave.  
Rutherford, NJ 07070  
Phone: 201-438-3995  
Email: [nereidsec@hotmail.com](mailto:nereidsec@hotmail.com)

**New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)**

Jay N. Meegoda, Ph.D., P.E.  
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973-596-2464  
Fax: 973-596-5790

**NY/NJ Baykeeper**

Debbie Mans, Exec. Director  
52 West Front St.  
Keyport, NJ 07735  
Phone: 732-888-9870  
Fax: 732-888-9873  
Email:

**Passaic River Coalition**

Laurie Howard, Chair  
330 Speedwell Ave.  
Morristown, NJ 07960  
Phone: 973-532-9830  
Fax: 973-889-9172  
Email via website: [www.passaicriver.org](http://www.passaicriver.org)

**Passaic River Institute (PRI)**

**Montclair State University**  
Meiyin S. Wu, Exec. Director  
Montclair State University  
Montclair, NJ  
Phone: 973-655-7117  
Email: [wum@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:wum@mail.montclair.edu)

**Passaic River Rowing Association**

PO Box 440  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

**Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC)**

Brian Davenport, River Restoration Program Manager  
600 Wilson Ave.  
Newark, NJ 07105  
Phone: 973-466-2714



**Rutgers University**

Bob Chant

Institute of Marine & Coastal Studies

New Brunswick, NJ 08903

Phone: 908-932-6555, x644

Email: [chant@marine.rutgers.edu](mailto:chant@marine.rutgers.edu)

**Stevens Institute of Technology**

Dr. K. Nadia Dimou

Research Professor

Hoboken, NJ 07030

Phone: 201-216-8551

**Watershed Management Area-4**

**Watershed Ambassador**

Michelle Taormino

PVSC

Phone: 973-817-5784

Email: [ambassador@pvsc.nj.gov](mailto:ambassador@pvsc.nj.gov)

## Appendix 11 – Potential Meeting Locations

### Belleville, NJ

**Belleville Senior Citizens Center**  
125 Franklin Ave.  
Belleville, NJ 07109  
Phone: 973-450-3430

### Elizabeth, NJ

**Boys & Girls Club of Elizabeth**  
513 Richmond St.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
Phone: 908-351-3344

**St. Anthony's Youth Center**  
219 High St.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
Phone: 908-353-0177

**Knights of Columbus**  
328 Union Ave.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
Phone: 908-355-2253

### Jersey City, NJ

**Boys Club of Jersey City**  
1 Canal St.  
Jersey City, NJ 07302  
Phone: 201-333-4100

**Friendship Masonic Lodge**  
78 Summit Ave.  
Jersey City, NJ 07304  
Phone: 201-451-4604

### Kearny, NJ

**Presbyterian Boys and Girls Club**  
663 Kearny Ave.  
Kearny, NJ 07032  
Phone: 201-991-9841

### **YMCA of Kearny**

728 Kearny Ave.  
Kearny, NJ 07032  
Phone: 201-997-4651

### **American Legion Kearny Frobisher Post 99**

314 Belgrove Drive  
Kearny, NJ 07032  
Phone: 201-991-6360

### **Elks BPO Lodge 1050 Kearny**

601 Elm St.  
Kearny, NJ 07032  
Phone: 201-991-6360

### **Franklin School**

100 Davis Ave.  
Kearny, NJ 07032  
Phone: 201-955-5020

### Newark, NJ

### **Barringer High School**

90 Parker St.  
Newark, NJ 07014  
Phone: 973-268-5125

### **East Newark Public**

501-11 N. Third St.  
East Newark, NJ 07029  
Phone: 201-481-6800

### **East Side High School**

238 Van Buren St.  
Newark, NJ 07105  
Phone: 973-465-4900

### **Elizabeth Ave. Community Center**

54 Elizabeth Ave.  
Newark, NJ 07108  
Phone: 973-242-0531

**Ironbound Community Center**

432 Lafayette St.  
Newark, NJ 07105  
Phone: 973-465-0947

**North Jersey Transportation Planning  
Authority (NJTPA)**

One Newark Center, 17<sup>th</sup> floor  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973-639-8400  
Fax: 073-639-1953

**Portuguese Sports Club**

55 Prospect St.  
Newark, NJ 07105  
Phone: 973-589-5078

**Society Hill Community Center**

1 Cornerstone Lane  
Newark, NJ 07103  
Phone: 973-622-0256

**St. Lucy's Community Center**

106 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Newark, NJ 07107  
Phone: 973-483-9003

**West Side Community Center**

West Side Park & 13<sup>th</sup>  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973-642-2015

## Appendix 12 – Information Repositories

### **U.S. EPA Records Center**

290 Broadway, 18<sup>th</sup> floor

New York, NY 10007

Hours: Mon – Fri: 9 AM – 4 PM

Phone: 212-637-3000

### **Newark Public Library**

NJ Reference Section

5 Washington St.

Newark, NJ 07101

Hours: Mon., Fri., Sat.: 9 AM – 5:15 PM

Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9 AM – 8:15 PM

Phone: 973-733-7775

### **Elizabeth Public Library**

11 South Broad St.

Elizabeth, NJ 07202

Hours: Mon. – Thurs.: 9AM – 9 PM

Fri.: 10 AM – 9 PM

Sat.: 9 AM – 5 PM

Phone: 908-354-6060



## Appendix 13 – Media List

### Newspapers

*El Nuevo Coqui* (Spanish)  
258 Clifton Ave.  
Newark, NJ 07103  
Phone: 973-481-3233

*Jersey Journal*  
One Harmon Plaza  
Ste. 1010  
Secaucus, NJ 07094  
Phone: 201-653-1000  
Website: [www.nj.com/jjournal/](http://www.nj.com/jjournal/)

*Jersey Journal* Spanish Edition  
Same address as above

*Luso Americano* (Portuguese)  
88 Ferry Street  
Newark, NJ 07105  
Phone: 973-589-4600  
Fax: 973-973-589-3848  
Website: [www.lusoamericano.com](http://www.lusoamericano.com)

*Luso Americano* (Portuguese)  
Classified Section  
66 Union St.  
Newark, NJ 07105  
Phone: 973-344-3200  
Fax: 973-344-4201

*The Record*  
50 Walnut St.  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973-643-0251  
Website: [www.northjersey.com](http://www.northjersey.com)

*The Star Ledger*  
1 Gateway Center, X1100  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973-392-4141  
Website: [www.nj.com/starledger/](http://www.nj.com/starledger/)

*The South Bergenite*  
33 Lincoln Ave.  
Rutherford, NJ 07070  
Phone: 201-933-1166

### Television Stations

NJN Network – Channel 50 (Public TV)  
50 Park Place, Ste. 1041  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973-648-3630  
Website: [www.njntvonline.org](http://www.njntvonline.org)

NJTV Public Television  
PO Box 5776  
Englewood, NJ 07631  
Phone: 609-777-0031  
Toll-free: 1-800-882-6622

Telemundo Channel 47 (Spanish)  
WNJU  
2200 Fletcher Ave.  
Fort Lee, NJ 07024  
Phone: 201-969-4246  
Website: [www.telemundo47.com](http://www.telemundo47.com)

Univision Channel 41 (Spanish)  
WXTV  
500 Frank w. Burr Blvd.  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
Phone: 201-287-4141  
Website: [www.univision.com](http://www.univision.com)

WWOR-TV Channel 9  
Secaucus, NJ  
[www.my9nj.com](http://www.my9nj.com)

Radio

WABC-AM  
2 Penn Plaza, #1700  
New York, NY 10013  
Phone: 212-268-5260  
Station Phone: 212-613-3800  
Website: [www.wabcradio.com](http://www.wabcradio.com)

WADO-AM (Spanish)  
Univision Radio Network  
277 Paterson Plank Rd.  
Carlstadt, NJ 07072  
Phone: 201-804-1739  
Website: [www.univision.com](http://www.univision.com)

WBGO  
Newark Public Radio, Inc.  
54 Park Pl.  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973-624-8880  
Fax: 973-824-8888  
Website: [www.wbgo.org](http://www.wbgo.org)

1010 WINS-AM (All News)  
Website: [www.newyork.cbslocal.com](http://www.newyork.cbslocal.com)

WLIB-AM 1190 (Urban)  
Phone: 212-447-1000  
Fax: 212-447-5211  
General Email: [info@wlib.com](mailto:info@wlib.com)  
Website: [www.wlib.com](http://www.wlib.com)

WPAT-AM 930 AM (Multicultural)  
27 William St., 11 fl.  
New York, NY 10005  
Phone: 212-966-1059  
Fax: 212-966-8580  
Website: [www.wpat930.com](http://www.wpat930.com)

WWRL – 1600 AM  
Woodside, NY 11377  
Phone: 718-355-1600  
Website: [www.aboutus.com/Wwrl1600.com](http://www.aboutus.com/Wwrl1600.com)

Radio Brazil Legal (Portuguese/Brazilian)  
350 Lafayette St.  
Newark, NJ 07105  
Phone: 973-351-4940  
Website: [www.radiolegal.fm.br](http://www.radiolegal.fm.br)

Radio Portugal 1430 AM  
189-215 South St.  
Newark, NJ 07114  
Phone: 201-344-1155  
Fax: 201-589-0022  
Email: [radioportugal@vivaportugal.com](mailto:radioportugal@vivaportugal.com)

Radio Verite (Haitian/Creole)  
15 Prospect St.  
E. Orange, NJ 07017  
Phone: 973-676-1671

## Appendix 14 – Seasonal Events and Activities

The following appendix lists seasonal events in the Passaic River watershed, but it is not a complete list. For further information, please click on the relevant links below or visit [www.ourpassaic.org](http://www.ourpassaic.org).

### Multi-Season

**American Littoral Society** sponsored activities, including beach and nature walks

<http://www.littoralsociety.org/index.php/trips-a-events/new-jersey>

**Clean Ocean Action** sponsored events, including beach cleanups

<http://cleanoceanaction.org/index.php?id=611>

**Hackensack Riverkeeper** sponsored activities, including: eco-walks, eco-cruises (guided river tours by canoe and kayak), canoe and kayak rentals, and river cleanups

<http://www.hackensackriverkeeper.org/calendar-of-events/>

<http://www.hackensackriverkeeper.org/activities-and-events/cleanups/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HackensackRiverkeeper>

**Jersey Coast Anglers Association** sponsored events, including fishing tournaments

<http://www.jcaa.org/>

**Passaic River Rowing Association** sponsored activities, including rowing lessons

<http://prra.org/news-and-events/>

**Somerset County Park Commission** canoe and kayak programs

<http://www.somersetcountyparks.org/activities/canoeKayak/CanoeingKayaking.html>

### Fall

**Head of the Passaic Regatta**, sponsored in part by the Nereid Boat Club

<http://www.hopr.org/>

### Spring

**Annual Barnegat Bay Festival**, sponsored in part by the Barnegat Bay Partnership

<http://bbp.ocean.edu/pages/266.asp>

**National Learn to Row Day**, sponsored by U.S. Rowing

[http://archive.usrowing.org/events\\_new/nltrd](http://archive.usrowing.org/events_new/nltrd)